OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/07 Vol. 50, No. 1

Love—The Key to a Fruitful Ministry

1 “Come to me, . . . and I will refresh you.” (Matt. 11:28) Such winsome words reflected Jesus’ deep-seated love for people. As Christian ministers, we desire to imitate Jesus in demonstrating our love for people who are worn down by a loveless world. How can we do so as we share the good news?

2 **In Word:** Love for people moved Jesus to take advantage of every opportunity to share the good news. (John 4:7-14) Love will help us to overcome hesitancy to witness informally. A six-year-old girl gave a fine witness to a woman sitting beside her in a medical waiting room. What prompted her to do so? She explained, “The lady looked like she needed to know about Jehovah.”

3 We can convey our interest in people with a sincere, warm smile and a friendly tone of voice. Listening carefully to the comments of others, acknowledging their concerns, and reflecting genuine personal interest likewise demonstrate love. (Prov. 15:23) In imitation of Jesus, we should emphasize the positive Kingdom message and Jehovah’s loving compassion for people.—Matt. 24:14; Luke 4:18.

4 **In Deed:** Jesus was sensitive to the needs of others in practical, tangible ways. (Matt. 15:32) We too may have opportunities to perform acts of loving-kindness while in the ministry. One sister observed a woman struggling to comprehend an important telephone call. Our sister volunteered to help by translating the caller’s words. This loving act opened the way for a Scriptural discussion that helped the woman accept a Bible study. In another case a brother making a return visit found the householder exasperated, having wedged a heavy piece of furniture in the doorway. After providing neighborly assistance, the brother was soon sitting on the couch that he had helped move, starting a Bible study with the appreciative man.

5 As we share in the ministry, we demonstrate our love for God and our love for neighbor. (Matt. 22:36-40) Such demonstration in word and deed helps honesthearted ones realize that we have the truth.

“I’m Not Interested”

1 That is a common reaction to our message in some areas. What will help us to avoid becoming disheartened when faced with apathy in the territory? How might we be able to stimulate interest in the good news?

2 **Maintain Joy:** Remembering why many are apathetic will help us to maintain joy. People who were taught the theory of evolution or who were raised in an atheistic society may not have considered the value of the Bible. Others may be disillusioned by the hypocrisy they have observed in religion. For some, their apathy may mirror their frustration and hopelessness. (Eph. 2:12) Some ‘take no note’ because they are weighed down with the anxieties of life.—Matt. 24:37-39.

3 Regardless of the negative reaction of some, we can have joy in the ministry, knowing that our efforts glorify Jehovah. (1 Pet. 4:11) In addition, talking about the truth, even to those who do not yet appreciate it, strengthens our own faith. Let us endeavor to view people in the territory as Jehovah does. He felt sorry for the people of Nineveh who did not “know the difference between their right hand and their left.” (Jonah 4:11) Those living in our territory need the good news! Therefore, we should not give up but should seek ways to stimulate their interest in the Bible’s message.

4 **Discuss Local Concerns:** Perhaps you could bring up a matter of local concern in your introduction and ask the householder to express his views. Listen as he speaks, then show him the Bible’s comforting message in response to his concerns. After a local tragedy, one Witness expressed his sincere regrets at each door. “Suddenly, the people started talking,” he said. “I had many fine conversations that day because I showed interest in their lives.”

5 Each problem facing mankind will be solved by God’s Kingdom. Try to discern the one that most concerns the householder. He may allow you to explain the Bible’s message of hope. If not, he may be willing to listen “even another time.”—Acts 17:32.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 8

Song 12

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage everyone to view the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* in preparation for the discussion that will be held at the Service Meeting the week of January 22. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm busy."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 19-20.

15 min: Benefit From *Examining the Scriptures Daily.* Talk and audience discussion based on the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2007.* Discuss the need for all to take a few minutes each day to consider the Scripture text and comments. Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on their routine for considering the text and how they have benefited. Conclude with a brief discussion of the yeartext for 2007.

20 min: Reach Everyone With the Good News. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* page 92 to the subheading on page 102.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 15

Song 93

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Is Something Holding You Back? A talk by an elder based on the April 1, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower,* pages 13-15.

20 min: "I'm Not Interested."* When discussing paragraph 4, ask the audience what issues are of interest in the local territory. Have two brief demonstrations showing how to overcome the potential conversation stopper "I'm not interested."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 16.

Song 135 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 22

Song 224

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!* In one of the presentations, demonstrate making a return visit on a magazine-route call.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "The Highest Quality of Medical Care—What Is It?" To be handled by an elder. Get right into a discussion of the *No Blood* video with the audience, using the questions that are provided in the article. Conclude by reading the last paragraph and encouraging all to review carefully the cited *Watchtower* articles.

Song 188 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 29

Song 55

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated.

20 min: "Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?"* To be handled by an elder. Include comments on the November 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.

15 min: If You Promise to Return, Return. Talk and audience discussion based on the September 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 11. Invite audience to relate experiences that show how they were blessed by returning as promised.

Song 137 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 5

Song 3

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: This Is Who I Am! Talk and audience discussion. Some youths are reluctant to identify themselves as Jehovah's Witnesses because they feel their peers may ridicule them. However, there are good reasons to identify who you are. Teachers who know your beliefs are more likely to respect them and not insist that you participate in something inappropriate. Unprincipled youths will not be so quick to invite you to share with them in misconduct. Others will more readily understand your decisions regarding matters such as dating or engaging in school sports and other extracurricular activities. You will also feel less apprehensive about witnessing in school or meeting a classmate while preaching in the territory. (*g*02 3/22 p. 12) Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by identifying themselves as Jehovah's Witnesses in school. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

20 min: "Love—The Key to a Fruitful Ministry."* Include comments on the February 1, 2003, *Watchtower,* page 23, paragraphs 16-17.

Song 83 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**286**	**102.7**	**78.5**	**38.4**	**3.6**
Pios.	**100,627**	**68.3**	**45.5**	**20.4**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**38,198**	**50.9**	**37.4**	**12.2**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**885,827**	**10.0**	**8.7**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,024,938**			Baptized:	**1,727**

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 100,627 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 3,105 over the previous peak of 97,522 in December of 2005. This is the first time we have exceeded one hundred thousand regular pioneers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** The *Knowledge* book or any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have these books may offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure. **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Worship God* book. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 4, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "God's New World—Who Will Qualify to Enter?"

■ The video program *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* will be considered at a Service Meeting in April. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ Our Chinese literature is published in two scripts. People from Hong Kong and Taiwan generally read the traditional script, which we designate "Chinese" (CH). Most other Chinese readers usually read a simplified script referred to as "Simplified Chinese" (CHS). Since the script that a person reads is unrelated to whether he speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, or another dialect, it is important to determine the script that he prefers. The booklet *Good News for People of All Nations,* pages 19-20, may be used for comparison. In this way, literature in the correct script will be requested.

■ Congregations should make appropriate arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Monday, April 2, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Each congregation should try to hold its own Memorial observance. However, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from some association after the Memorial. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ Congregation secretaries should make sure that they have a pioneer appointment letter (S-202) for each regular pioneer in the congregation. If they do not, they should inform the branch office in writing.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: March 10, 2007 (Gilead graduation); May 11-12, 2007 (spring cleaning); September 8, 2007 (Gilead graduation); and October 6, 2007 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ As a reminder, all congregations should notify the branch office of their meeting times as they will be on January 1. If this has not been done, the congregation secretary should immediately submit it on the Congregation Internet Site (CIS) or on a *Congregation Meeting Information* (S-5) form.

The Highest Quality of Medical Care—What Is It?

"Any patient who receives bloodless medicine is, in essence, the recipient of the highest quality surgery that is possible." So said Dr. Michael Rose, medical director and anesthesiologist. What procedures and transfusion alternatives may be included in "bloodless medicine"? You need to know in order to make informed decisions involving medical treatment and surgery. Watch the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.* Afterward, test your understanding with the questions that follow.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) What is the main reason why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions? **(2)** When it comes to medical care, what do Jehovah's Witnesses desire? **(3)** What basic right do patients have? **(4)** Why is it rational and responsible to choose transfusion alternatives? **(5)** When severe blood loss occurs, what two urgent priorities do doctors have? **(6)** What are the four principles of transfusion-alternative strategies? **(7)** How may doctors (a) minimize blood loss, (b) conserve red blood cells, (c) stimulate blood production, and (d) recover lost blood? **(8)** Describe the procedures known as (a) hemodilution and (b) cell salvage. **(9)** What should you want to be informed about regarding any transfusion alternative? **(10)** Can serious and complicated surgeries be performed without the use of blood transfusions? **(11)** What positive development is taking place within the medical community?

Acceptance of some of the treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you decided which transfusion alternatives you are willing to accept for yourself and your children? Non-Witness family members should also be fully informed of your decisions and the reasons for them.—See "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.*

Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

[1] Each year, millions of people around the world, including many of our brothers and sisters, are affected by earthquakes, tsunamis, monsoons, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Since natural disasters occur unexpectedly and could affect any of us, it is the course of wisdom to be prepared.—Prov. 21:5.

[2] **In Advance:** Sometimes the authorities are able to warn of impending disasters. It is important to pay attention to those warnings. (Prov. 22:3) In such situations the elders will try to contact all in the congregation to help them to make necessary preparations. After a disaster, the elders will also endeavor to contact all who are associated with the congregation to see if they are safe and to discern what assistance may be needed. Valuable time can be lost if the elders do not have up-to-date contact information. So it is good for publishers to keep the secretary and their book study overseer informed of their current address and telephone number(s).

[3] If the congregation is located in a disaster-prone area, the elders may ask publishers to provide the name and telephone number of a relative or friend who does not live in the vicinity and who should be contacted in case of an emergency. This will enable the elders to locate those who have evacuated. The elders may also wish to develop a contingency plan for the congregation that includes such things as a simple checklist of emergency supplies to keep on hand, evacuation arrangements, and plans for assisting those with special needs. Cooperation with these loving arrangements is important.—Heb. 13:17.

[4] **After a Disaster:** What should you do if a disaster strikes in your area? Make sure that your family's immediate physical needs are cared for. As you are able, give necessary assistance to others who have been affected. Endeavor to contact your book study overseer or another elder as soon as possible. This should be done even if you are safe and do not need help. If you need assistance, be assured that your brothers are making every effort to help you. (1 Cor. 13:4, 7) Remember that Jehovah is aware of your situation; rely on him to sustain you. (Ps. 37:39; 62:8) Be alert to opportunities to provide spiritual and emotional support to others. (2 Cor. 1:3, 4) Resume your theocratic routine as soon as possible.—Matt. 6:33.

[5] While the threat of disaster causes the world much anxiety, we can look to the future with confidence. Soon all disasters will be a thing of the past. (Rev. 21:4) In the meantime, we can take reasonable steps to prepare for times of trouble and difficulties as we maintain our zeal in declaring the good news to others.

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1. Why is it prudent to be prepared for disasters?
2. Why should we keep the elders informed of our current address and telephone number(s)?
3. How may we cooperate with the elders if we live in a disaster-prone area?
4. What should we do if a disaster strikes in our area?
5. How are we as Christians affected by the threat of disaster?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Jan. 15

"Where do you think married couples can go for reliable advice? [Allow for response.] Notice who originated marriage. [Read Genesis 2:22.] God also provided instructions on the dignified role of the husband and the wife. This magazine explains."

Awake!® Jan.

"Have you noticed that many professed Christians do not follow the teachings of Jesus? [Allow for response.] For example, many do not follow Jesus' words here. [Read John 13:35.] This article examines the difference between what Jesus taught and the view of many professed Christians." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Feb. 1

"Do you think our community would be a better place if everyone lived by these words? [Read Ephesians 4:25. Then allow for response.] Many people think that lying is acceptable in some situations. This magazine explains the benefits of always telling the truth."

Awake!® Feb.

"Attitudes toward religion seem to be changing in some communities. Do you think the churches are losing their influence? [Allow for response.] These words of the apostle Paul give a reason why some have lost confidence in religion. [Read Acts 20:29, 30.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about the future of Christianity."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 2/07 Vol. 50, No. 2

Entrusted With a Treasure

1 The apostle Paul valued his God-given commission to preach and referred to it as a "treasure." (2 Cor. 4:7) He endured hardships and persecution in carrying out that commission. He tirelessly preached to anyone who happened to be on hand. He traveled many difficult and dangerous miles by land and by sea. How can we imitate Paul and show that we cherish our ministry? (Rom. 11:13) What makes our ministry an incomparable treasure?

2 **A Superior Treasure:** Earthly treasures are often accompanied by much heartache and yield only limited or temporary benefits. On the other hand, our ministry brings lasting benefits to us and to others. (1 Tim. 4:16) It helps sincere people come to know Jehovah, make needed changes in their lives, and gain a real hope of everlasting life. (Rom. 10:13-15) By highly esteeming our ministry, we acquire a satisfying purpose in life, a lasting sense of accomplishment, and an uplifting hope for the future.—1 Cor. 15:58.

3 **Demonstrate That You Value Your Treasure:** The value we place on something is often demonstrated by what we are willing to spend for it. What a privilege it is to spend our time and energy praising Jehovah! (Eph. 5:16, 17) The way we spend our time should show that we place more value on spiritual things than on material pursuits. Since we have something so precious to share, we will want to preach with enthusiasm and to be alert to tell the good news at every opportunity.

4 Priceless treasures are usually not hidden but are exhibited for others to enjoy. If we view our ministry as a treasure, it will be a prominent part of our life. (Matt. 5:14-16) With hearts full of appreciation, may we always imitate the apostle Paul and take advantage of every opportunity to show that we truly value our ministry, esteeming it as a treasure.

Imitate Christ in Your Ministry

1 Jesus set the example for us to follow in our ministry. His deep love for God and for people was demonstrated on many occasions and in many ways. He taught meek ones the truth and performed acts of loving-kindness in behalf of those who were afflicted and downtrodden.—Matt. 9:35.

2 **Jesus' Example and Teachings:** Jesus did not become sidetracked by involving himself in political affairs or mere humanitarian efforts to better the community. Nor did he allow any other well-intentioned pursuits to distract him or overshadow his primary work. (Luke 8:1) He focused on the preaching of the good news of God's Kingdom as the only permanent solution to mankind's problems. Jesus had a great work to do and limited time in which to do it. When people in Capernaum wanted Jesus to remain there, he said to his disciples: "Let us go somewhere else . . . that I may preach there also, for it is for this purpose I have gone out."—Mark 1:38.

3 After giving his disciples training, Jesus sent them out with these specific instructions: "Preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.'" (Matt. 10:7) He taught his followers that Kingdom interests should take priority in their lives. (Matt. 6:33) Jesus' parting words to his disciples before he ascended to heaven made clear what they were to do. He said: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations."—Matt. 28:19.

4 **Importance of the Kingdom:** Jesus' main topic of discussion was God's Kingdom, and he urged his disciples to follow his example. Human efforts to solve mankind's problems cannot be successful. (Jer. 10:23) Only God's Kingdom will sanctify God's name and provide permanent relief for mankind. (Matt. 6:9, 10) Teaching Kingdom truths to people who are "sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done" helps them to live a happy, successful life now and hold fast to a reliable hope for the future.—Ezek. 9:4.

5 Jesus continues to be involved in the preaching of the good news of God's Kingdom, and he assures us of his support. (Matt. 28:20) To what extent does our ministry measure up to the model that Jesus set for us? (1 Pet. 2:21) In these momentous last days, may we do everything within our power to adhere closely to the example Jesus set in the ministry!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 12

Song 52

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the February 15 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm not interested in religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 16-17.

35 min: "Declare Abroad the Excellencies of Jehovah."* To be handled by the service overseer. At appropriate points during the discussion, announce the time and location of the Memorial, arrangements for additional meetings for field service, and the congregation's goal for auxiliary pioneers in April.

Song 147 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 19

Song 198

5 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Imitate the Great Teacher When Using the *Bible Teach* Book."* When considering paragraph 6, have a brief demonstration showing a publisher using the box at the end of chapter 6 in the *Bible Teach* book to review the chapter with his student.

20 min: Can You Start a Bible Study in March? Audience discussion. During the first half of March, we will be offering the *Bible Teach* book with the goal of starting Bible studies. Review the suggestions in the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, pages 3-6. Using one of the suggestions on page 6 or another presentation appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to start a Bible study on the initial call. Invite audience to relate outstanding experiences they have enjoyed using the book, especially in starting Bible studies.

Song 220 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 26

Song 29

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!* In one of the presentations, show a publisher working business territory.

15 min: "Do Not Forget Those Who Are Inactive."* Include comments on the May 1, 2004, *Watchtower*, pages 21-2, paragraphs 13-16.

20 min: "Imitate Christ in Your Ministry."* As time permits, invite audience to read and comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 18 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 5

Song 32

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Give a copy of the special Memorial invitation to everyone in the audience, and review local arrangements for distributing it in the territory. Urge all to have a full share. Include a demonstration showing how the invitation may be used.

15 min: Preaching the Good News in an Orderly Manner. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* from the subheading on page 102 to the end of the chapter.

15 min: "Entrusted With a Treasure."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 104 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**327**	**104.2**	**69.0**	**36.7**	**3.6**
Pios.	**102,752**	**69.8**	**34.3**	**18.4**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**51,605**	**50.9**	**27.0**	**10.3**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**881,035**	**10.9**	**6.8**	**3.2**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,035,719**				Baptized: **2,869**

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 102,752 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 2,125 over the previous peak of 100,627 in September of 2006.

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Declare Abroad the Excellencies of Jehovah

1 "Yours, O Jehovah, are the greatness and the mightiness and the beauty and the excellency and the dignity; for everything in the heavens and in the earth is yours." (1 Chron. 29:11) How does our love and appreciation for Jehovah affect us? It moves us to 'declare abroad the excellencies of the one that called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.' (1 Pet. 2:9) We cannot stop telling others about our great God! We will have outstanding opportunities to proclaim Jehovah's excellencies during the months of March, April, and May.

2 **Special Campaign to Advertise the Memorial:** On Monday, April 2, we will highlight Jehovah's excellencies by observing the Lord's Evening Meal. A special invitation to this important event will be distributed earth wide from March 17 to April 2. All are encouraged to have a full share. This would be an excellent time for new ones to begin publishing the good news if they qualify. If you have Bible students or children who may qualify, take the initiative to speak with the elders.

3 This campaign will be similar to what was done in connection with the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Conventions. Congregations will be sent enough invitations so that each publisher can have 50 copies and each pioneer can have 150 copies. Keep your presentation brief, perhaps saying: "This is your invitation to an upcoming important yearly event. You will be warmly welcomed. The details are on the invitation." Of course, if the householder has questions, take the time to answer them. The appendix article on the Lord's Evening Meal found in the *Bible Teach* book beginning on page 206 may be helpful in this regard. On weekends, we will offer the current magazines along with the special invitation. Keep track of any interest found, and arrange to call back.

4 Wherever possible, this special invitation should be handed personally to each householder. Therefore, make a record of not-at-homes, and arrange to call again at another time. Congregations that have a generous supply of invitations left over may leave them at not-at-homes during the last week before the Memorial, but not before that. Make sure that your return visits, Bible students, relatives, workmates, neighbors, and other acquaintances also receive an invitation.

5 **Auxiliary Pioneering:** Can you declare Jehovah's excellencies more fully by auxiliary pioneering during March, April, and May? Doing so will likely require some adjustments in your daily schedule. (Eph. 5:15-17) You can be sure that making an effort to do more in Jehovah's service will bring joy and

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1. What moves us to declare abroad the excellencies of Jehovah?
2. What special campaign is planned to advertise the Memorial, and who may have a share?
3. What might we say to invite people to the Memorial?
4. How will the special Memorial invitations be distributed?
5. Why should we begin now to make our plans to auxiliary pioneer?

Jehovah's blessing. (Prov. 10:22) Since the Memorial season is approaching, now is the time to begin making plans. —Prov. 21:5.

[6] One 90-year-old sister enjoyed the privilege of auxiliary pioneering last year. She stated: "Even though I really love gardening and wanted to start planting, I realized I needed to get my priorities straight. With a desire to put Kingdom interests first, I decided to auxiliary pioneer in March." Was she blessed for her efforts? She says, "I feel more a part of the congregation, and this has drawn me closer to Jehovah." Can we analyze our priorities and make similar adjustments as needed?

[7] Meeting the auxiliary pioneer requirement of 50 hours may not be as difficult as you think. Prayerfully consider your daily activities, make a schedule, and then note it on your theocratic calendar. You know your personal circumstances best. If you have poor health and lack stamina, perhaps you could share in the ministry for a couple of hours each day. If you work full-time or go to school, you may be able to auxiliary pioneer by sharing in the ministry in the evenings or on weekends.

Can We Have 160,000 Auxiliary Pioneers in April?

- Analyze your priorities
- Discuss goals as a family
- Talk to others about your plans

[8] Many have been able to auxiliary pioneer as a family. In previous years one married couple hesitated to enroll because they felt their circumstances did not allow them to auxiliary pioneer. What did they do about it? "We prayed to Jehovah to help us accomplish what we had wanted to do together for so long." With proper planning they were able to reach their goal. They added: "It was wonderful. We enjoyed many blessings together. Our suggestion is, try it. If we did it, you may be able to do it too."

[9] Why not set aside time during your next family study to consider how all can increase their activity during the coming months? Even if your entire family cannot auxiliary pioneer, perhaps one member can do so with help and cooperation from the other members of the household. If not, possibly your family can set goals to spend additional time in the ministry during these special months of activity.

[10] **Help One Another:** Enthusiasm is contagious. Talk about your desire to auxiliary pioneer. This may encourage others to apply. In addition, those who have pioneered in the past may be able to give you suggestions that will help you to arrange your affairs and sched-

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6. What can we learn from the experience of a 90-year-old sister who auxiliary pioneered last year?
7. Is it difficult to serve as an auxiliary pioneer?
8. What enabled one married couple to auxiliary pioneer?
9. What might you do during your next family study to prepare for the coming months of special activity?
10. Why should we talk to others about our desire to auxiliary pioneer during this Memorial season?

ule so as to reach your goal. (Prov. 15: 22) If you are able to auxiliary pioneer, why not invite another publisher, perhaps someone with similar circumstances, to join you in this enjoyable activity?

[11] Many elders make the necessary arrangements to participate in this special avenue of service. (Heb. 13:7) This is indeed encouraging to the congregation! Elders also build enthusiasm by their conversations with others. A few kind words of encouragement or some practical suggestions may be just what is needed to move some to auxiliary pioneer. The service overseer will likely be arranging additional meetings for field service so that all can engage in group witnessing, even after work or school. These arrangements should be announced regularly. He will also make sure that all have sufficient territory and literature.

[12] Even if circumstances prevent you from auxiliary pioneering, you can offer encouragement to those who enroll, and you can pray for them. (Prov. 25:11; Col. 4:12) Perhaps you may be able to make arrangements to share with them in the ministry an additional day during the week or to stay out longer than you usually do.

[13] **Goal of 160,000 Auxiliary Pioneers in April:** The all-time peak of auxiliary pioneers for the United States branch was 153,774, reached in April 2000. Therefore, a realistic goal for this coming April is 160,000 auxiliary pioneers. We can reach it if an average of just 1 out of every 6 publishers in each congregation engages in the auxiliary pioneer work. Of course, some congregations will have even more publishers whose circumstances allow them to auxiliary pioneer. Such a congregation goal is easily within reach for most congregations. Imagine the excitement this will generate in your congregation and the positive effect it will have on the preaching work in your territory!

[14] Why is April an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer? The Memorial will be at the beginning of the month, giving us ample opportunity to make follow-up visits on those who attend. We will be offering the magazines, with the objective of placing the *Bible Teach* book on return visits and starting Bible studies. Therefore, auxiliary pioneering in April will provide many opportunities for starting Bible studies. In this country the days are longer and the weather is usually mild. In addition, the month of April has five Sundays and a worldly holiday, making it easier for those who work secularly and those who attend school to enroll.

[15] Each Memorial season that passes brings us one year closer to the end of this system of things. The time left to tell others about our great God is reduced. (1 Cor. 7:29) Once this Memorial season has passed, the precious opportunities it gave us to praise our heavenly Father will be gone forever. May we make preparations now to do all we can during March, April, and May to declare abroad the excellencies of Jehovah!

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11. How can the elders generate enthusiasm for auxiliary pioneering in the coming months?
12. What might you be able to do if you cannot auxiliary pioneer?
13. What goal has been set for the United States, and how can your congregation contribute toward reaching it?
14. Why is April an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer?
15. Why should we have a sense of urgency as this Memorial season approaches?

Imitate the Great Teacher When Using the *Bible Teach* Book

[1] The Great Teacher, Jesus, always explained things in a simple, clear way. To stimulate the thinking of his listeners, at times he first asked them for their viewpoint. (Matt. 17:24-27) He directed attention to God's Word. (Matt. 26:31; Mark 7:6) He was careful not to overwhelm his disciples with too much information, knowing that they would continue to learn. (John 16:12) Jesus was also interested in whether his disciples believed and understood what he taught them. (Matt. 13:51) The *Bible Teach* book is designed to help us teach in a similar manner.

[2] **Introductory Questions:** When you begin a chapter, it is good to call attention to the introductory questions under the title. Raise the questions rhetorically to whet the student's appetite. Or you could invite him to comment briefly on the questions. There is no need to discuss his comments at length or to correct every wrong statement. You may simply thank him for his thoughts and begin consideration of the material. His comments on the introductory questions will help you to know if you need to give more attention to a certain portion of the lesson.

[3] **Scriptures:** The study should center on the Scriptures. (Heb. 4:12) However, it is not necessary to read every cited text. Emphasize those that show the Scriptural basis for our beliefs. Texts that provide background information may not need to be read. The *Bible Teach* book presents the truth in an uncomplicated way. Keep the study simple. Focus on the main points, and avoid the tendency to talk too much about details or to bring outside material into the discussion unnecessarily.

[4] **Appendix:** The appendix covers 14 topics that supplement the main text. Discussing these topics during the study is optional. For some subjects, you may choose to encourage your student to read the supplementary material on his own, especially if he understands and accepts the information in the main text. For example, if the student already believes that Jesus is the Messiah, it may not be necessary to consider with him the topic "Jesus Christ—The Promised Messiah" when discussing chapter 4, "Who Is Jesus Christ?" On other occasions, it may be beneficial to take time during the study to discuss the appendix material or a portion thereof.

[5] If you choose to discuss the appendix material, you may prepare questions in advance and consider the paragraphs with the student just as you would the main text. Or depending upon the needs of the student, you may choose to take a few minutes during the study to review the information with him. That will allow you to make sure he understands the material that he read on his own.

[6] **Review Box:** The box at the end of each chapter provides statements that usually answer the introductory questions. You can use these statements to review the main points of the chapter. Some publishers have found it helpful to read each statement and perhaps the accompanying scriptures with the student. They then ask the student to explain briefly how the scriptures prove the statement. This shows the teacher whether the student clearly understands the main points of the lesson and how these are supported by the Bible and whether he agrees with them. It also trains the student to use the Bible to explain the truth to others.

[7] The most effective way to fulfill our commission to teach people and to make disciples is to imitate Jesus' methods of teaching. (Matt. 28:19, 20) The *Bible Teach* book can help us to do that. Make good use of it to teach others the truth in a clear, simple, and interesting way.

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1. How did Jesus teach?
2. In what ways can we use the introductory questions for each chapter?
3. How can we keep the study simple?
4. What determines whether we should take time during the study to consider information from the appendix?
5. If we choose to consider information from the appendix, how may we do it?
6. How can the review box at the conclusion of each study be used?
7. How can we use the *Bible Teach* book to fulfill our commission?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Worship God* book. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters.

■ The special public talk for the 2007 Memorial season is entitled "You Can Feel Safe in This Troubled World!" See the related announcement in the October 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

■ A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

■ For those who wish to make donations to the worldwide work electronically, a set of instructions is available to explain this arrangement. For further information, call (718) 560-5000 or write to Watchtower, Attn: Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 26, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 1 through February 26, 2007. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When should practical application of our material be made, and in what manner should this be done? [*be* p. 158 pars. 2-4]
2. Why is it important to help others see the practical value of the information we are presenting, and how can we do this? [*be* p. 159 pars. 3-4]
3. Why is our choice of words important? [*be* p. 160]
4. What will help us to use a variety of words accurately? [*be* p. 161 pars. 5-6; p. 162 pars. 1, 4]
5. What are some advantages of speaking from either a mental outline or a written one? [*be* p. 166 pars. 1-3]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is involved in preparing a reading assignment? [*be* p. 43 pars. 2, 4]
7. What is vital if we are to cultivate Jehovah's love of right and hatred of wrong? (Heb. 5:14) [*w*05 1/1 p. 9 par. 11]
8. What should we remember if we read something in the Bible that causes us to wonder whether God acted in a just or right way? [*w*05 2/1 p. 24 par. 7]
9. How should we react when there is a conflict between God's law and human demands? [*w*05 4/15 p. 12 par. 9]
10. How does Isaiah focus attention on the Kingdom by Messiah and on the forerunner, John the Baptizer? [*si* p. 123 par. 35]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What is "the envelopment" and "the woven work" mentioned at Isaiah 25:7?
12. How can people 'see' and "hear" Jehovah? (Isa. 30:20, 21)
13. *True or False:* Hezekiah's prayer recorded at Isaiah 38:3 was motivated by sheer desire to live longer.
14. How could the Israelites serve as Jehovah's witnesses, and how can we imitate them? (Isa. 43:10)
15. In harmony with the prophetic pattern set forth at Isaiah 52:11, 12, what is required to 'carry the utensils of Jehovah'?

Do Not Forget Those Who Are Inactive

1 Are you acquainted with anyone who has become inactive? Perhaps he has stopped associating with the congregation and has drifted away. You may have contacted such a person while engaging in the house-to-house ministry. We must keep in mind that the individual continues to be our spiritual brother. We want to confirm our love for him and help him to return to the congregation and to 'the shepherd and overseer of our souls.'—1 Pet. 2:25.

2 **Demonstrate Interest:** A brief telephone call or visit may assure one who has become inactive that we have not forgotten him. What could we say? We may be encouraging by simply letting the person know that we were thinking of him. Keep the conversation positive and upbuilding. (Phil. 4:8) We might mention a point that we enjoyed from a recent meeting. We could also invite him to an upcoming meeting or assembly and offer to save him a seat or provide transportation.

3 A sister who had been inactive for more than 20 years was found in the territory. Although she was unwilling to accept a Bible study, the sister who found her called back, leaving the current magazines. After the district convention, the publisher shared some convention highlights with the inactive sister, and eventually she was reactivated.

4 **When Someone Returns:** When an inactive brother begins coming back to the meetings, how should we treat him? Well, how did Jesus treat his disciples after they had temporarily abandoned him? He warmly referred to them as his "brothers" and showed confidence in them. He even gave them an important assignment. (Matt. 28:10, 18, 19) Shortly thereafter, they were busy declaring the good news "without letup."—Acts 5:42.

5 Before offering to study the Bible with someone who has become inactive or before inviting a brother who has been inactive a long time to accompany us in the ministry, we should seek direction from the elders. If we come across an inactive publisher in the territory, we should inform the elders so that they can render needed assistance.

6 As the Bible clearly shows, only those who run the course to the finish will receive salvation. (Matt. 24:13) Therefore, take note of those who may have stumbled or drifted away. If we patiently reflect Jehovah's love by demonstrating sincere interest in such ones, we may experience the joy of seeing them resume their sacred service alongside us.—Luke 15:4-10.

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1. Why should we reach out to encourage those who have become inactive?
2. How may we offer encouragement to an inactive one?
3. How was one sister reactivated?
4. How should we treat someone who resumes his association by attending meetings?
5. Mention situations in which we should speak to the elders about someone who is inactive.
6. What joy may we experience from helping those who are inactive?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Feb. 15

"Some feel that man is ruining the earth. Do you ever worry about that? [Allow for response.] Notice this reassuring promise. [Read Revelation 11:18.] This magazine presents information on what makes this planet unique. It also shows what the Bible says about the earth's future."

Awake!® Feb.

"Do you think that this is a reason why we see so much trouble in the world? [Read 1 John 5:19. Then allow for response.] This article shows what the Bible says about the identity of 'the wicked one' and how we can avoid his powerful influence." Feature the article that begins on page 12.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Mar. 1

"Many people feel that all religions lead to God. Do you think it matters which religion a person chooses? [Allow for response.] Notice this recommendation. [Read 1 John 4:1.] This magazine discusses how we can test teachings to see if they come from God. It also explains how different religions got started."

Awake!® Mar.

"In your opinion, what are some challenges facing young people today? [Allow for response.] This verse highlights one challenge—having the right kind of friends. [Read Proverbs 13:20.] This magazine discusses the dangers of using the Internet to find friends and how youths can be protected."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/07 Vol. 50, No. 3

"Keep Doing This in Remembrance of Me"

Jesus' Death to Be Commemorated on April 2

[1] On April 2, 2007, millions of people around the world will assemble to commemorate Jesus' sacrificial death. Jesus died as an upholder of his heavenly Father's sovereignty, giving proof that Satan the Devil had falsely charged that humans serve God only out of selfish motives. (Job 2:1-5) The Lord's Evening Meal also reminds us that by means of his death as a perfect, sinless human, Jesus 'gave his soul a ransom in exchange for many.' (Matt. 20:28) Therefore, Jesus commanded his disciples: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) Has appreciation for this precious gift of God moved you to start making preparations to commemorate this superlative act of love? —John 3:16.

[2] **Prepare Your Heart:** By considering what occurred on each of the final days of Jesus' human life, we can prepare our heart for this Memorial observance. (Ezra 7:10) To assist us in this, a schedule of special Bible reading can be found in *Examining the Scriptures—2007* and on the *2007 Calendar*. This scheduled reading closely matches the days on which the events surrounding Jesus' death occurred according to the calendar we use today. The days and dates referred to in the Bible accounts are based on the Jewish calendar, which reckons days from sundown to sundown. This difference has been taken into consideration and is reflected in the Memorial Bible reading schedule. Reviewing such information and prayerfully meditating on the depth of God's love will help us to benefit fully from the Memorial observance.

[3] **Invite Others to Attend:** The insert in the February *Our Kingdom Ministry* announced a special campaign to invite people to this important event. Have you made arrangements to share fully in this campaign? Have you made a list of acquaintances to invite, and have you started contacting them? Make plans to be present early enough on the evening of the Memorial to welcome those whom you invited as well as other interested ones. You may want to sit with them, making sure that they have a Bible and a songbook. Introduce them to others in the congregation. After the program make yourself available to answer their questions. Invite them to attend the special public talk that will be given on April 15. Elders especially will be interested in making sure that those who have associated with the congregation but have become inactive receive an invitation to the Memorial and the special talk.

[4] **Help Newly Interested and Inactive Ones to Make Progress:** The Memorial speaker will briefly explain our Bible study arrangement and encourage newly interested ones to continue learning about Jehovah. You can use his comments as a basis for offering further spiritual help to those you invited. If they are not presently studying the Bible, be sure to visit them soon after the Memorial and demonstrate the free Bible study arrangement. In order to make spiritual progress, they will also need to attend congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) With this in mind, encourage them to begin attending regularly. Elders will want to visit inactive Christians who attended the Memorial and to build on the thoughts presented in the discourse. This may encourage them to resume their activity in the congregation.

[5] The Memorial observance provides an opportunity to reflect seriously on what Jehovah and Jesus have done in our behalf. Such meditation deepens our love for them and affects our conduct. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15; 1 John 4:11) Now is the time to begin preparing ourselves and interested ones for this important occasion during which we 'proclaim the death of the Lord.' —1 Cor. 11:26.

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1. Why is April 2, 2007, an important date?
2. How can we prepare our heart for the Memorial?
3. How can we help interested and inactive ones to benefit from the Memorial?
4. How can we assist people to continue to make spiritual progress after the Memorial observance?
5. What effect may observing the Memorial have on us?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 12

Song 153

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!*

15 min: When a Loved One Leaves Jehovah. A talk by an elder based on the September 1, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 17-21.

20 min: “Keep Doing This in Remembrance of Me.”* When considering paragraph 3, include comments from the March 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1, paragraph 3, on how the *Bible Teach* book may be used to explain the Memorial observance to interested ones we invite.

Song 168 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 19

Song 45

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Review main points from the box “Memorial Reminders” on page 3.

20 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 10 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

15 min: “How Would You Answer?”* Present a brief demonstration of how this feature might be used on occasion during a family study.

Song 216 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 26

Song 115

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for March. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* along with the special Memorial invitation.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: What Should I Do With My Life? A talk based on the *Awake!* of July 2006, pages 23-5. Include an interview with one or two persons who pursued full-time service upon graduation from high school. Why did they choose full-time service? What blessings have they enjoyed?

Song 148 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 2

Song 177

10 min: Local announcements. Review the invitation found on the back cover of the April 1, 2007, *Watchtower,* and encourage publishers to invite interested persons to the special public talk that will be given on April 15.

20 min: Continue to Assist Those Who Attended the Memorial. Talk by an elder. Announce the attendance for the local Memorial, and give an estimate of the number of interested ones who were present. Relate any outstanding experiences regarding those who accepted the special Memorial invitation or approached the attendants after the program to request a Bible study. Offer suggestions on how to give further spiritual assistance to those who attended. (See *km* 3/06 p. 1, par. 5; *km* 2/05 p. 4, par. 9; *km* 2/04 p. 5, par. 16.) Encourage publishers to follow through promptly.

15 min: Make Good Use of the *2007 Yearbook.* Talk and audience discussion. Review the main points from “A Letter From the Governing Body.” Point out highlights from the “Worldwide Report.” Arrange in advance for a few publishers to relate reports and experiences that they have found especially upbuilding and faith strengthening. Encourage families to read the entire book progressively during the year. Suggest ways we can use the book to direct new ones to Jehovah's organization and to encourage them to attend meetings.

Song 179 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**344**	**104.8**	**68.8**	**33.7**	**3.4**
Pios.	**103,257**	**65.2**	**34.8**	**17.8**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**34,992**	**49.4**	**27.8**	**10.6**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**903,719**	**10.3**	**7.1**	**3.2**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,042,312**		Baptized: **3,673**		

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 103,257 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 505 over the previous peak of 102,752 in October of 2006.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

- Congregations should release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. This will allow publishers to become familiar with the contents before offering the magazines in field service.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of December, January, and February. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read. —See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

- The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-4 in the form entitled *Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls* (TO-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to determine whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.

- It is important that groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. You may also use the following fax number: (845) 306-0200. At least two weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.

- Immediately after the Memorial, the total attendance and number of partakers should be submitted to the branch office using the Congregation Internet Site (CIS). If this is not possible, the *Memorial Report* (S-7) card or a letter may be sent. When multiple congregations meet together, only one congregation should submit the total attendance figure.

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Monday, April 2. The elders should give attention to the following matters.

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready. —See the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* pp. 14-15.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

"How Would You Answer?"

[1] Do you love God's Word but find it difficult to remember details about Bible accounts or where specific statements are recorded in the Scriptures? Would you like your children to have a firm grasp of basic Bible facts and teachings? The feature "How Would You Answer?" published each month on page 31 of *Awake!* can help both young and old to become better acquainted with God's Word.—Acts 17:11.

[2] How can you make the best use of this feature? The January 2006 issue of *Awake!* made the following suggestions: "Take a moment to look at page 31 . . . Some sections of the page will appeal to young readers; others will challenge the memory of more advanced Bible students. The section 'When in History?' will help you build a time line showing when Bible characters lived and when major events happened. While the answers to the section 'From This Issue' will be found throughout the magazine, the answers to most of the other questions will appear on a designated page in the same issue, where they will be printed upside down. Why not do some research before you read those answers and then share with others what you learn? You might even use this new feature, 'How Would You Answer?' as a basis for family or group Bible discussions."

[3] Indeed, many families enjoy using this feature as a basis for family study. One mother writes: "My husband and I thought it would be a good idea to incorporate the 'Children's Picture Search' into our family study to keep it lively and interesting for our three-year-old daughter. It is so much fun watching her excitedly take her personal copy of *Awake!* and flip through each and every page until she finds what she's looking for." A father in Brazil says: "My seven-year-old son and I like this feature in *Awake!* very much. It has helped Moises to pay attention, to look up Scriptures, to appreciate pictures, and to understand dates." Ashley, age eight, writes: "Thank you for the 'How Would You Answer?' in the back of *Awake!* I learn a lot about the Bible from it."

[4] Why not consider using "How Would You Answer?" occasionally as a part of your family study? You could use the *Index* or *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM to look up the answers to some of the more difficult questions. By doing so, you will be teaching your children how to do research. If you have older children, why not assign them the challenge of researching the answers to "Who Am I?" or "When in History?" prior to the family study? They could then share the fruits of their research during the study. Using this page effectively is one way parents can inculcate God's Word in their children, helping them to know "the holy writings" from infancy.—2 Tim. 3:15; Deut. 6:7.

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1. What challenges do many of us face?
2. How can the various sections of the "How Would You Answer?" feature be used?
3. How have some families benefited from this feature, and which sections do you enjoy most?
4. How could a family use this feature to supplement their family Bible study?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Mar. 15

"People often speak of the coming of Jesus Christ. Do you think that this is an event to look forward to or to fear? [Allow for response.] Notice how the Bible writer John felt about it. [Read Revelation 22:20.] This magazine explains what Christ's coming will accomplish."

Awake!® Mar.

"Many world leaders seem to be very proud. Do you think that this attitude contributes to peace and harmony in the world? [Allow for response.] Here is what the Bible says about pride. [Read Proverbs 16:18.] This article explains the benefits of being humble." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Apr. 1

"Almost every day we are confronted with questions about our health, our family, and our job. Where do you think we can find reliable and practical answers? [Allow for response.] Note what the Bible says at 2 Timothy 3:16. [Read.] This magazine shows how the Bible can help us in many practical ways."

Awake!® Apr.

"In many parts of the world, people feel that moral standards are declining. Have you noticed this? [Allow for response.] The conditions we see today fulfill a Bible prophecy. [Read 2 Timothy 3:2-4.] This magazine shows what the moral decline means and where it is leading mankind."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/07 Vol. 50, No. 4

"Speak the Word of God Fearlessly"

[1] Do you sometimes hesitate to speak up about your faith when afforded an opportunity at school or at work? Is it a challenge for you to witness informally to relatives and neighbors or perhaps to people you do not know? What will help all of us to take advantage of appropriate occasions to "speak the word of God fearlessly"?—Phil. 1:14.

[2] **Do Not Hold Back:** Would you hold back from defending a close friend or a relative who was being falsely accused? Jehovah, our closest Friend, has been grossly misrepresented throughout the centuries. We have the unique privilege of giving a witness in behalf of our great God! (Isa. 43:10-12) Deep love for Jehovah can help us deal with feelings of self-consciousness or fear and can move us to speak up, not holding back from boldly bearing witness to the truth.—Acts 4:26, 29, 31.

[3] Remember that our message is *good news.* It will bring lasting benefits to those who heed it. Focusing on the value of the preaching work instead of on ourselves or on our opposers will help us to preach with boldness.

[4] **Examples of Others:** We can draw strength from the faithful course of others who have spoken the word of God fearlessly. For example, Enoch courageously proclaimed Jehovah's judgment against ungodly sinners. (Jude 14, 15) Noah faithfully preached to people who were apathetic. (Matt. 24:37-39) First-century Christians who were "unlettered and ordinary" continued to preach despite harsh opposition. (Acts 4:13, 18-20) *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* often contain modern-day life stories of those who by exercising faith in Jehovah overcame fear of man and became zealous evangelizers.

[5] We can take courage by considering the life course of faithful servants of old who faced difficult situations. (1 Ki. 19:2, 3; Mark 14:66-71) They "mustered up boldness by means of our God" and spoke fearlessly. So can we!—1 Thess. 2:2.

All Can Have a Share in Making New Disciples

[1] A new disciple does not result from the efforts of just one person. Jehovah can use all his "fellow workers" to help Bible students grow spiritually. (1 Cor. 3:6-9) We individually help new ones not only by our heartfelt comments at Christian meetings but also by our good conduct, which gives striking evidence of God's spirit at work in our lives. (John 13:35; Gal. 5:22, 23; Eph. 4:22, 23) What more can be done to help new ones?

[2] **As a Congregation:** All of us can demonstrate interest in those who begin to attend meetings by taking the initiative to greet them warmly and to converse with them before and after the meeting. Reflecting on his first contact with the congregation, one man said: "I met more genuinely loving people, total strangers, in one day than I had ever met in the church in which I was raised. It was apparent that I had found the truth." He was baptized seven months after attending his first meeting.

[3] Give sincere commendation as a Bible student makes spiritual progress. Has he been enduring opposition? Is he attending meetings regularly? Did he muster up the courage to comment? Has he enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School or started sharing in the ministry? Commend him for the progress he has made. This will refresh and reassure him.—Prov. 25:11.

[4] **As a Bible Study Conductor:** Some publishers have been able to help their Bible students get acquainted with individual members of the congregation by asking other publishers to accompany them on the study. Invite the student to congregation meetings as soon as possible. When he begins attending meetings, make a point of introducing him to others. Is he struggling to overcome a bad habit, such as smoking? Does someone in his household object to his studying? He may benefit by talking to a publisher who has faced and overcome a similar challenge.—1 Pet. 5:9.

[5] New ones need spiritual support from the congregation. All can assist them in making progress by demonstrating sincere personal interest.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Note: A Service Meeting will be scheduled in *Our Kingdom Ministry* for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat counsel and reminders from this month's insert that apply locally. A month or two following your convention, set aside 15 to 20 minutes on a Service Meeting (perhaps using a local needs portion) for a review of points from the convention that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry. The review should be handled by the service overseer. Invite the audience to comment on how they are applying or plan to apply that information in their ministry.

Week Starting April 9

Song 201

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage everyone to view the drama on the DVD entitled *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* in preparation for the discussion that will be held next week at the Service Meeting. Point out the box "Main Menu," and explain how to navigate around the DVD. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* In one demonstration, have the publisher raise a question that he will answer on the return visit.

15 min: "All Can Have a Share in Making New Disciples."* When considering paragraph 4, invite the audience to comment on how members of the congregation encouraged them before baptism. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

20 min: "Concerted Global Effort to Advertise the 'Follow the Christ!' District Convention."* When considering paragraph 3, invite audience to relate outstanding local experiences in connection with distributing invitations to the district convention last year or include comments on the *2007 Yearbook,* from page 7 to the subheading on page 10.

Song 43 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 16

Song 161

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Speak the Word of God Fearlessly."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

20 min: "What Will You Do With Your Life?"—Part 1.* Following brief comments on paragraphs 1-2, get right into a discussion of each question presented in paragraphs 3-4. When discussing question 4 in paragraph 3, have both scriptures read. In conclusion, review the box "Main Menu." Encourage everyone to watch the "Interviews" and "Supplementary Material" on the DVD in preparation for next week's Service Meeting discussion.

Song 207 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 23

Song 215

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!*

10 min: Look! The Light Is Wonderful! Talk based on the March 15, 2007, *Watchtower,* pages 12-14.

25 min: "What Will You Do With Your Life?"—Part 2.* Get right into a discussion of each question presented in paragraphs 5-7. Conclude with the warm appeal in paragraph 8.

Song 172 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 30

Song 186

5 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April.

10 min: Local needs.

30 min: "Follow the Christ by Manifesting Dignity."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Mention the convention to which the congregation is assigned. Review the box "District Convention Reminders."

Song 44 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 7

Song 164

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Arrangements for Places of Worship. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 11 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

20 min: "When People Are Not at Home."* To be handled by the service overseer.

Song 178 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**368**	**103.7**	**69.1**	**37.7**	**3.4**
Pios.	**103,648**	**62.7**	**38.8**	**19.3**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**29,937**	**48.8**	**33.0**	**11.9**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**912,754**	**9.6**	**8.2**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,046,707**		Baptized: **2,304**		

We are pleased to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 103,648 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 391 over the previous peak of 103,257 in November of 2006.

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Concerted Global Effort to Advertise the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention

Publishers Will Again Distribute a Special Handbill

[1] Last year the worldwide campaign to advertise the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention had a powerful effect on interested ones. Those who accepted the special invitation and came experienced for the first time what a sumptuous spiritual feast among Jehovah's Witnesses is like. (Isa. 65:13) They enjoyed association with our warm, united Christian brotherhood. (Ps. 133:1) In order to help as many as possible to attend the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention, we will once again engage in distributing worldwide a special handbill.

[2] **Results Last Year:** Based on reports that were received from all parts of the world, excellent results were achieved by advertising the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention. In many places we received favorable publicity. For example, in one city, a newspaper published a six-column article about the campaign, stating: "To reach everyone in time Witnesses have been making an extra push in the neighborhood—working longer hours, walking longer distances, and talking faster." The coordinated handbill distribution aroused the interest of the local media in another city, prompting in-depth news coverage. At least three newspapers favorably reported on our activity before the convention. A reporter wrote several extensive articles that covered more than two pages in the Sunday edition of one newspaper. It detailed our beliefs, our brotherhood, the handbill distribution, and the convention. When one publisher presented the invitation at a door, the householder interrupted, saying: "Yes. I was just reading about that in the paper!" Another householder exclaimed: "I've just been reading about you, and now you're here! Is that my invitation?" She then added, "This is a very nice thing for Jehovah's Witnesses to be doing."

[3] Many interested individuals were seen approaching the convention sites with their invitation in hand. Some interested ones drove from distant cities in order to attend sessions. Our diligent efforts to invite others contributed to an increase in attendance, with one country having 27 percent more people present for the convention than the previous year.

[4] **Territory Coverage:** You may begin distributing the handbill three weeks before the start of your convention. Every effort should be made to cover the entire congregation territory. In congregations that have a large amount of territory, publishers may leave the handbill discreetly at not-at-homes during the final week before the convention. Congregations should endeavor to distribute the entire allotment of handbills and to cover as much territory as possible. Any surplus can be utilized by the pioneers in the congregation.

[5] **What to Say:** You might say something like this: "We are sharing in a global effort to distribute this invitation to an important upcoming event. This is your copy. You will find other details set out in the invitation." Keeping the presentation brief will allow for a wide distribution. Of course, if the householder has questions, take the time to answer them. Where interest is shown, make a record and call back on the individual as soon as possible.

[6] How vital it is that we strive to follow the Christ! (John 3:36) Our upcoming district convention will help all who attend to do just that. Surely we can anticipate that a tremendous witness will again be given as a result of this concerted effort to advertise the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention. Therefore, be zealous in inviting as many as possible to attend. May Jehovah's rich blessing be upon your personal efforts as you share in this united global campaign.

Follow the Christ by Manifesting Dignity

[1] The Bible describes the Universal Sovereign, Jehovah, as being clothed with dignity. (Ps. 104:1) Jesus always spoke and acted in a way that honored his Father and his Father's provisions. (John 17:4) Each of us will have opportunities to imitate Jesus and bring glory to Jehovah during our upcoming "Follow the Christ!" District Conventions.

[2] **Dignified Worship:** We can honor Jehovah by arranging to be present for the spiritual feast that he has prepared for us. Have you spoken with your employer and arranged your affairs to attend each day of the convention, including Friday? Have you planned to arrive in sufficient time to locate seating and share in the opening song and prayer? Have you planned your noon meals so that you can eat at the convention site with your brothers? At the beginning of each session when the chairman kindly invites us to take our seats before the music starts, we should quickly end our conversations and be seated for the beginning of the program.

[3] Paying close attention to the program also honors our heavenly Father. After observing a local district convention, a reporter wrote that onlookers would be impressed by "the exemplary behavior of those present, as they follow what is being said in respectful silence and with evident spiritual affinity." He also commented on "the exceptional number of children . . . , all strangely well behaved or even busy consulting verses in the Holy Bible." While the program is in session, it is not the time for needless talking, text messaging, eating, or roaming the corridors. Youths should be seated with their parents so that parents can help them to benefit from the program. (Deut. 31:12; Prov. 29:15) Such efforts show respect for others and appreciation for the vital spiritual food being served.

[4] **Dignified Appearance:** Many expressed appreciation for the reminders in last year's district convention talk "Manifest Christian Dignity at All Times," which emphasized that God's servants should strive to manifest Christian dignity in their dress and grooming. This year we should again give this matter our serious attention. Our appearance reflects our feelings for Jehovah and for the privilege of being his Witnesses. We should always dress as those "professing to reverence God."—1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

[5] Should we manifest a dignified appearance only when attending the program? Remember that many will observe us wearing our convention badges while in the convention city. Our appearance should make us stand out from the general public. Therefore, even during leisure time, such as when going out to eat after the program, we should dress as befits ministers who are in the city for the purpose of attending a Christian convention and should not wear such clothing as jeans, shorts, or T-shirts. What a witness this will give to the community! Jehovah is pleased when our appearance bespeaks our role as ministers.

[6] **Satisfying Results:** Manifesting Christian dignity at our conventions creates opportunities to witness informally and leaves observers with a favorable impression. At the end of one convention, an official remarked: "We have never seen such well-behaved people. You are the way God expects us to be." Manifesting dignity shows respect and love for one another and glorifies Jehovah. (1 Pet. 2:12) It demonstrates our godly fear and our appreciation for the privilege of being instructed by our Father. (Heb. 12:28) May we strive to manifest dignity as we anticipate this year's "Follow the Christ!" District Convention.

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1. How does this year's convention theme relate to manifesting dignity?
2. How does our preparation for being present at each session honor Jehovah?
3. How does paying close attention to the program dignify our worship?
4. Why should we have a dignified appearance while at the convention?
5. How can we maintain a dignified appearance during leisure time in the convention city?
6. What are the positive results of manifesting Christian dignity?

District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. When the introductory Kingdom music begins, all of us should take our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 5:05 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 4:10 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those disabled persons who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the area reserved for the disabled. Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under your seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers, glass containers, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** Considerable expense is involved in arranging a district convention. We can show our appreciation by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower."

■ **Accidents and Emergencies:** Emergency-response services have complained that they receive many cell-phone calls over minor matters. If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First Aid so that our qualified first-aid personnel on-site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If necessary, 911 will be called by our first-aid personnel on-site.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the vicinity of the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To make use of this provision, you will need to bring a small FM receiver along with earphones.

■ **Recording:** Recorders of any type should not be connected to the facility's electric or sound system and may be used only in a way that does not disturb others.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas where we depend on mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be a kindness for us to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions to those who suffer from respiratory or related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.

■ **Follow-Up Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should be used to provide information regarding any who show interest as a result of our informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two follow-up forms to the convention. The forms will also be available at the convention Book Room Department. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room for handling or to your congregation secretary upon your return.—See the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 6.

■ **Restaurants:** In many places, it is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip, depending on the service.

■ **Hotels:** (1) Please do not reserve more rooms than will actually be needed, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it. (4) Do not cook in rooms where cooking is not permitted. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) As Christians, surely we will not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff at all times. (8) The room rate shown on the Recommended Lodging List is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are billed for any additional charges for anything you did not request or use, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible. (9) If a problem arises with your hotel room, be sure to inform the Rooming Department while at the convention.

What Will You Do With Your Life?

[1] Children are sometimes asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" When you were a small boy, would you have said that you wanted to be a cowboy? a fireman? a circuit overseer? Or as a little girl, would you have said that you wanted to be a ballerina? a nurse? a missionary? Now that you are older, you must ask yourself another question, 'What will I do with my life?' Are you ready to decide?

[2] To help you make the best possible decision, Jehovah's organization produced the DVD *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* Please watch it, and give serious thought to all that it contains, including the drama, interviews, and supplementary material. The contents are outlined in the box "Main Menu."

[3] **The Drama:** As you watch the drama, consider these questions: **(1)** What similarities are there between Timothy, who is spoken of in the Christian Greek Scriptures, and Andre? (Acts 16:1; 1 Tim. 4:8; 2 Tim. 1:5) **(2)** How was Andre being pressured to excel in athletics, and by whom? **(3)** Who proved to be positive influences on Timothy and on Andre, and in what ways? (2 Tim. 1:1-4; 3:14, 15) **(4)** How did the admonition at Matthew 6:24 and Philippians 3:8 affect Andre, and how does it affect you?

[4] **Selected Scenes:** After watching the entire drama, replay the following scenes, and answer these questions. *"Paul and Timothy":* What was Paul's final admonition to Timothy? (2 Tim. 4:5) *"Giving Jehovah Your Best":* What sort of spiritual goals do you have? *"Taking a Stand for Jehovah":* From where does real happiness come? *"Grandmother's Advice":* What is wrong with wanting to be a star in Satan's world? (Matt. 4:9) *"No Regrets":* What discovery can help you find fulfillment in life?—Prov. 10:22.

[5] **Interviews:** As you watch each of the following sections, what do you see that you can do to give your best to Jehovah? **(1)** "Dedication to Vain Pursuits or to God?" (1 John 2:17); **(2)** "Learning to Enjoy Your Ministry" (Ps. 27:14); and **(3)** "An Open Door to Service."—Matt. 6:33.

[6] **Looking Back:** Can you answer? **(1)** What careers were the brother and the sister pursuing, and why? **(2)** How successful had they become? **(3)** What was the turning point in each one's life? (2 Cor. 5:15) **(4)** What theocratic careers replaced their former ones, and why did they feel that they could not pursue both? **(5)** Do they have any regrets for having changed their focus in life? **(6)** What did they say that has especially made you think about what you should do with your life?

[7] **Supplementary Interviews:** In these interviews, what have you learned that you can do to apply yourself more fully in Jehovah's service? **(1)** "The Value of Personal Study," **(2)** "Alternative Witnessing," **(3)** "Bethel Service," **(4)** "Gilead Missionary Training," and **(5)** "Ministerial Training School." Review the "Index to Published Information on Related Subjects," and read more about what interests you most.

[8] So have you decided what you will do with your life? Paul urged Timothy: "Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons." (1 Tim. 4:15) We urge you to do the same with what you have seen and heard on this DVD. Ask Jehovah to help you make a wise choice that will truly give you joy and fulfillment in life now as well as a rewarding and happy future.

MAIN MENU

- **Play Drama**
- **Scenes (11 selections)**
- **Interviews**
  - Play All
  - Sections (3 selections)
  - Looking Back
- **Supplementary Material**
  - Supplementary Interviews
  - Index to Published Information on Related Subjects
- **Subtitles**
  - Hearing Impaired
  - None

To navigate around the menus, use the Next ▶, ◀ Back, and Main Menu buttons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Bible Teach* book, making a diligent effort to start Bible studies.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2007 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request them. If the congregation needs additional badge cards, these should be requested on the Congregation Internet Site (CIS) or on a *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Plastic badge card holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These may be requested on the Congregation Internet Site (CIS) or on a *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Before sending regular pioneer application forms to the branch office, make sure they are completely filled out.

■ It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a *Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address* (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook*.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men under the age of 26 who are (1) citizens and have reached 18 years of age or (2) noncitizens who move to the United States must register within 30 days. From the time a man registers until he turns 26, he must notify Selective Service within ten days of any change of address. Compliance with this law is a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders should remind those to whom this applies or will soon apply of their duty to register.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 30, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 5 through April 30, 2007. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we keep our talk outline simple? [*be* p. 168 par. 4]
2. List four ways in which we can present material in a logical manner. [*be* p. 170 par. 3–p. 172 par. 4]
3. What factors should we keep in mind when determining what to include in a talk? [*be* p. 173 pars. 1-2]
4. What are some benefits of extemporaneous delivery? [*be* p. 175 pars. 2-4]
5. Why is speaking in a conversational manner important, and how can we develop this quality? [*be* p. 179 par. 4, box; p. 180, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How should a brother prepare when assigned to present highlights from the weekly Bible reading? [*be* p. 47 pars. 3-4]
7. What is far more important about Christ's ransom than the benefits we receive by means of it? [*w*05 11/1 p. 14 par. 1]
8. How should the Scripture references be used in a public talk? [*be* p. 53 pars. 1-2]
9. What was Jesus' objective as a teacher, and how can we imitate him? [*be* p. 57 par. 1]
10. Why is the use of contrasts effective in teaching? [*be* p. 57 pars. 3-4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How can we endeavor to apply the counsel at Jeremiah 6:16 to walk in "the roadways of long ago, where, now, the good way is"?
12. Why did Jehovah choose the stork as an object lesson for unfaithful Jews, and what can we learn from this? (Jer. 8:7)
13. What bearing does Jeremiah 15:17 have on our view of entertainment today?
14. How are humans like clay in the hands of the Great Potter, Jehovah? (Jer. 18:5-11)
15. How is the order in which nations are listed at Jeremiah 25:17-26 significant for our day?

When People Are Not at Home

[1] In many areas it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people at home. In these "critical times," many are forced to work long hours just to make ends meet. (2 Tim. 3:1) Some may be away from home spending money or engaging in recreation. How can we reach such ones with the good news?

[2] **Keep Good Records:** The first step is to make note of those who are not at home. This is especially important if you work your territory frequently. Do you make note of the name of the street, the territory number, your name, and the date? You may leave room for making additional notes when you or another publisher returns to work the not-at-homes. At the end of the witnessing period, remember to give the record or notes to the person who has the territory, unless he agrees for you to work the not-at-homes. Use a separate sheet to record any interest found that you will care for.

[3] **Try at a Different Time:** Perhaps some who were not at home during the workday may be home in the evening or on weekends. Could you arrange your schedule to go back at a more opportune time? (1 Cor. 10:24) If not, you may be able to give the not-at-homes to a publisher who can go back at a different time. Otherwise, you might write to those who were not at home or try to reach them by telephone. Publishers whose health problems limit their share in the door-to-door work may be happy to assist you with this.

[4] One case illustrates the importance of trying to contact those who are not at home. After publishers repeatedly called at one home for three years, the householder was eventually contacted. It turned out that she had been waiting all that time for a Witness to come by in order to resume the Bible study that she had before moving to that area.

[5] **Complete the Territory:** When is a territory considered completed? Generally, this is when reasonable efforts have been made to contact someone at each home. It may be appropriate to leave a tract or an older magazine discreetly at the not-at-homes, especially in territories that are worked infrequently. The territory should be completed within four months. Then it should be checked in so that the territory servant can update his records.

[6] We want as many people as possible to have an opportunity to learn to call on the name of Jehovah and be saved. (Rom. 10:13, 14) This includes those who happen to be away from their home when we call from house to house. Like the apostle Paul, make it your desire "to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God."—Acts 20:24.

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1. What is a common challenge when engaging in the door-to-door ministry?
2. How can we make sure that not-at-homes will be cared for?
3. What are some suggestions for reaching those who are not at home?
4. What illustrates the importance of calling back on not-at-homes?
5. When is a territory considered completed?
6. Why should we try to reach everyone in our territory with the good news?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Apr. 15

"It seems that cruel acts are becoming more common. [Give a local example or one from the magazine.] Have you ever wondered how people can be so cruel? [Allow for response.] The Bible foretold an increase in cruelty. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This magazine answers the question, 'Will cruelty ever end?'"

Awake!® Apr.

"Many people claim to be Christians. What do you think it means to be a Christian? [Allow for response.] Note what Jesus said here. [Read John 15:14.] This article shows that more is required than simply saying that one is a Christian." Feature the article that begins on page 26.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"The death of a child causes deep and lasting pain for parents. Where do you think they can turn for comfort? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 15:5.] This magazine discusses some of the ways in which God supplies comfort to those who mourn."

Awake!® May

"Some people enjoy prosperity, while millions of others live in poverty. Do you think that we will ever see a time when such inequalities will be gone? [Allow for response.] Notice how God views those who are poor. [Read Psalm 22:24.] This magazine explains the Bible's hope for the poor."

OUR KINGDOM MI[redacted]

May 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/07 Vol. 50, No. 5

"He Is Giving to the Tired One Power"

[1] All of us get tired from time to time. It may result not only from work or other physical activity but also from the challenges we face in these "critical times hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) As servants of Jehovah, how do we acquire the spiritual strength needed to keep from slowing down in our ministry? We do this by relying upon the one who is "vigorous in power," Jehovah. (Isa. 40:26) He is aware of our needs and has a genuine interest in helping us. —1 Pet. 5:7.

[2] **Jehovah's Provisions:** Jehovah strengthens us by means of his holy spirit, the same irresistible force that he used to create the universe. God's spirit helps us to "regain power" if we become weary. (Isa. 40:31) Ask yourself, 'When was the last time I specifically prayed for holy spirit to strengthen me to meet my Christian obligations?' —Luke 11:11-13.

[3] By daily reading and meditating on God's inspired Word and being nourished spiritually by a regular study of our Christian publications, we will be like a vibrant "tree planted by streams of water, that gives its own fruit in its season and the foliage of which does not wither."—Ps. 1:2, 3.

[4] Jehovah also uses fellow believers, who can be "a strengthening aid" to us. (Col. 4:10, 11) They strengthen us at congregation meetings by their upbuilding conversation, comments, and talks. (Acts 15:32) Christian elders, especially, provide spiritual help and refreshing encouragement.—Isa. 32:1, 2.

[5] **The Ministry:** If you feel yourself becoming weary, do not stop preaching! Unlike many other activities, regular participation in the ministry actually refreshes us. (Matt. 11:28-30) Sharing the good news helps us to focus on God's Kingdom and to keep eternity and its blessed prospects in view.

[6] There is much to do before this wicked system is destroyed. We have every reason to remain steadfast in our service, "dependent on the strength that God supplies." (1 Pet. 4:11) With Jehovah's help we will finish our work, for "he is giving to the tired one power."—Isa. 40:29.

Do You Champion God's Word?

[1] In a world that often discredits the Bible, true Christians zealously advocate God's Word. Convinced that "all Scripture is inspired of God," we stand with Jesus Christ, who testified in prayer to Jehovah: "Your word is truth." (2 Tim. 3:16; John 17:17) How may we effectively champion God's Word?

[2] **Learn Scriptures:** Jesus no doubt applied himself to learning God's Word. This enabled him to teach from the Scriptures throughout his ministry. (Luke 4:16-21; 24:44-46) How can we build up in our memory a helpful reservoir of scriptures? We do so by reading the Bible each day and then meditating on a verse that we found to be especially encouraging or helpful for the ministry. When preparing for meetings, we should look up and read the cited scriptures directly from the Bible and perhaps prepare a comment on them. When attending meetings, we should follow along in our Bible as the speaker reads scriptures. Learning Bible texts will prepare us to 'handle the word of the truth aright.' —2 Tim. 2:15.

[3] **Let the Bible Speak:** While engaging in the ministry, we should let the Bible speak. For example, if circumstances allow, we should try to share a scripture with the householder. If he asks a question or raises an objection, it is best to use the Bible to give an answer. When the householder is busy, we may still be able to highlight a Biblical thought by saying, "Before I go, allow me to leave you with this one scripture." Whenever possible, read directly from the Bible, allowing the listener to follow along as you read.

[4] When one householder was shown scriptures to refute the *Trinity, he exclaimed,* "I have attended church all my life, and I surely didn't know the Bible says this!" He readily accepted a Bible study. Jesus said that his sheep would listen to his voice. (John 10:16, 27) The best way for honesthearted ones to recognize the truth is to see it directly from the Scriptures. Let us therefore be champions of God's Word of truth!

Service Meeting Schedule

Week Starting May 14

Song 205

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!*

20 min: Supporting Kingdom Activity Locally and Worldwide. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* chapter 12.

15 min: "He Is Giving to the Tired One Power."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 1 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 21

Song 41

10 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

15 min: You Can Learn Another Language! Talk based on the *Awake!* of March 2007, pages 10-12. Highlight the value of learning another language for the purpose of furthering the good news.

20 min: "Do You Champion God's Word?"* Include comments on the boxes on pages 143-4 of the *Ministry School* book.

Song 202 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 28

Song 46

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!*

20 min: Feature Either the *Creator* or the *Family Happiness* Book in June. Point out some of the timely features of the books, and demonstrate how to offer each book, using presentations that would be effective in the local territory. As time permits, invite the audience to comment on the good results obtained from using these publications with acquaintances or family members.

15 min: Field Experiences. Relate experiences enjoyed by auxiliary pioneers and other publishers who worked hard to increase their field activity during March, April, and May. Also relate experiences of those who followed up on magazine placements with the goal of starting a Bible study. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.

Song 21 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 4

Song 99

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Teach Your Children to Praise Jehovah."* When discussing paragraph 4, include comments on the July 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.

Song 169 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

January Service Report

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**376**	**108.1**	**66.8**	**41.7**	**3.8**
Pios.	**102,720**	**63.6**	**36.8**	**20.7**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**24,024**	**49.1**	**31.3**	**13.5**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**905,460**	**9.2**	**7.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,032,580**		Baptized: **2,334**		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Bible Teach* book, making a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied before the *Worship God* book.

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office's financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ Bodies of elders should review the July 6, 2006, letter regarding disaster preparedness and ensure that they have up-to-date contact information for each publisher. In disaster-prone areas, additional emergency contact information should be obtained. Of course, in addition to emergency situations, it is helpful when publishers communicate with their Congregation Book Study overseer or another elder if they will be away for extended periods, such as when traveling on vacation or business, during a hospital stay, and so forth.

■ Individuals confined to prisons, jails, substance-abuse facilities, or state hospitals should receive literature and spiritual assistance under the direction of the congregation assigned by the branch office as the contact for the facility. Publishers should not contact the branch office to request literature or visits for such individuals. Rather, those confined should initiate requests for visits or literature through publishers approved to visit their facility or by writing directly to the branch office. This allows the individual to give evidence of his genuine interest and may assist publishers in being granted access to the facility.

QUESTION BOX

■ How should the opening song of the Theocratic Ministry School, the Service Meeting, the Public Meeting, and the *Watchtower* Study be introduced, and by whom?

Opening song selections for each week of the Theocratic Ministry School are listed in the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule that constitutes the October *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Opening and closing songs for each week's Service Meeting are indicated on page 2 of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Likewise, song numbers for the weekly *Watchtower* Study are found on page 2 of each issue of *The Watchtower.* The songs assigned are considered part of the unified whole of the meeting and should thus be introduced by the brother conducting the meeting rather than by the chairman of the preceding meeting.

For example, the Theocratic Ministry School overseer will welcome the audience, introduce the opening song, conduct the school, and then invite the first speaker of the Service Meeting to the platform. The brother with the Service Meeting part is the one who should call for the song that opens the Service Meeting.

In like manner, the Public Meeting will be called to order by a chairman. He will warmly welcome all in attendance and invite them to join in singing the opening song selected by the speaker. The chairman (or perhaps another qualified brother assigned in advance) will open the meeting with prayer. He will introduce the speaker and state the subject of his discourse. After the talk the chairman, while not summarizing what the speaker just said, will make a brief expression of appreciation for the instruction. He will announce the title of the public talk for the following week, and then he will invite all in attendance to remain for the *Watchtower* Study. There is no need for the chairman to ask if the audience would like to send love and greetings to a visiting speaker's congregation. Next, the chairman will invite the *Watchtower* Study conductor to the platform.

The *Watchtower* Study conductor will introduce the first song to be used in conjunction with the study. He will conduct the study in harmony with published instructions and then announce the concluding song. The *Watchtower* Study conductor will usually call on the brother who gave the public talk to offer the closing prayer.

Observing these general guidelines will help to ensure that our congregation meetings are conducted in a unified manner.

Teach Your Children to Praise Jehovah

1 Psalm 148:12, 13 encourages boys and girls to "praise the name of Jehovah." The Scriptures contain numerous examples of young children who did so. For example, "Samuel was ministering before Jehovah, as a boy." (1 Sam. 2:18) It was "a little girl" who told Naaman's wife that Jehovah's prophet in Israel could cure Naaman of his leprosy. (2 Ki. 5:1-3) When Jesus entered into the temple and performed powerful works, "boys" were the ones who cried out: "Save, we pray, the Son of David!" (Matt. 21:15) How can parents teach their children to praise Jehovah?

2 **Example:** Before inculcating the truth in their children's hearts, Israelite fathers were instructed first to love Jehovah and have his commands on *their* own hearts. (Deut. 6:5-9) If you speak positively about the ministry and make it a part of your weekly schedule, your children will be inclined to view the ministry as important and satisfying.

3 One sister fondly recalls: "When I was growing up, our family routine included sharing in the field ministry every weekend. I could see that my parents really enjoyed preaching. We grew up viewing the ministry as something pleasurable." This sister became an unbaptized publisher at the age of seven and is in her 33rd year of full-time service.

4 **Progressive Training:** Involve your children as you share in the ministry. Perhaps they can ring the doorbell, hand the householder a tract, or read a scripture. This will add to their enjoyment and help them to gain confidence in their ability to share the Kingdom message. As they grow older, their participation in the ministry should increase. Therefore, help them to be progressive and to give thought to spiritual goals.

5 Speak to the elders as soon as you feel that your children are qualified to become unbaptized publishers and when they express a desire to become such. Becoming a publisher will impress upon them their personal responsibility to praise Jehovah. Keep in mind that a child does not need to know as much as baptized adults before he can qualify. Does your child understand basic Bible teachings? Does he adhere to the Bible's moral standards? Does he desire to share in the ministry and to be identified as one of Jehovah's Witnesses? If so, the elders may then determine that he is qualified as an unbaptized publisher.—See *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pp. 79-82.

6 Teaching children to praise Jehovah from their heart requires work. However, few things cause greater joy for parents than seeing their children make spiritual progress. More important, Jehovah is pleased when children tell about his wonderful works.

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1. Can young children praise Jehovah?
2. Why is it important for parents to set a good example for their children?
3. How was one sister benefited by her parents' example?
4. What does it mean to train children progressively?
5. What is needed for a child to qualify as an unbaptized publisher?
6. Why is it worthwhile for parents to train their children?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **May 15**

"How would you answer this question? [Read question on cover. Then allow for response.] The Bible gives us a reason for hope. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] This magazine explains how God's Kingdom will cause God's will to be done on earth."

Awake!® May

"Do you think that our actions and final destiny have been predetermined by God? [Allow for response.] According to this Bible verse, God allows people to choose how they will live their lives. [Read Deuteronomy 30:19.] This article shows what the Bible says on the subject." Feature the article that begins on page 12.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **June 1**

"Almost every day we hear news of those who carry out evil acts. [Cite a current example known locally.] Have you ever wondered if there is an unseen sinister source influencing people? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 12:12.] This magazine explains how we can protect ourselves."

Awake!® June

"I would like to have your opinion on what this says. [Read 1 Timothy 6:10.] Do you feel that those who live for money and material acquisitions really suffer as a result? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains the bad effects of pursuing riches."

OUR KINGDOM MI [redacted]

June 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 6/07 Vol. 50, No. 6

We Are Glad to Expend Ourselves in Jehovah's Service!

[1] The apostle Paul was glad to "be completely spent" for the sake of fulfilling his Christian ministry. (2 Cor. 12:15) Similarly today, many Christians work diligently as pioneers. Others with heavy family responsibilities make room in their busy schedule to share in the ministry each week. Some with serious health problems use their limited energy to promote Kingdom interests. How encouraging it is to see Jehovah's people, regardless of age or circumstances, expend themselves in Jehovah's service!

[2] **Love of Neighbor:** Doing all we can to serve Jehovah, demonstrating love for God and for neighbor, gives us a clean conscience. Because Paul imparted his soul in sharing the good news, he could happily say: "I call you to witness this very day that I am clean from the blood of all men." (Acts 20:24, 26; 1 Thess. 2:8) Sharing in the ministry to the extent our circumstances allow will prevent us from becoming bloodguilty. —Ezek. 3:18-21.

[3] Working hard to help others brings us happiness. (Acts 20:35) One brother said: "When evening comes, and I return home after a day in Jehovah's service, I feel tired, it is true. But I am happy, and I thank Jehovah for having given me a joy that no one can take away."

[4] **Love of God:** The most important reason for expending ourselves in Jehovah's service is that it pleases our heavenly Father. Love of God moves us to observe his commands, which include preaching and making disciples. (1 John 5:3) Even when people are apathetic or opposed, we joyfully continue to work hard for Jehovah.

[5] Now is no time to let up. We are living during the harvest. (Matt. 9:37) A farmer usually works long hours during a harvest because he has limited time to gather the crops before they begin to spoil. The time allowed for the spiritual harvest work also is limited. Keeping in mind the time that we are living in, may we all continue to exert ourselves vigorously in the ministry.—Luke 13:24; 1 Cor. 7:29-31.

Keep On "Bearing Much Fruit"

[1] Using symbolic terms, Jesus represented himself as the true vine, his Father as the Cultivator, and his spirit-anointed followers as productive branches of the vine. In describing the work of the symbolic Cultivator, Jesus emphasized the importance of remaining strongly attached to the vine. (John 15:1-4) The lesson is that everyone having a close personal relationship with Jehovah must be like a fruitful branch of the "true vine," Jesus Christ. We must keep on producing abundantly both "the fruitage of the spirit" and Kingdom fruitage. —Gal. 5:22, 23; Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

[2] **Fruitage of the Spirit:** Our spiritual progress can be measured largely by the extent that we manifest the fruitage of the spirit. Do you work at cultivating the fruitage of God's spirit by regularly studying and meditating on God's Word? (Phil. 1:9-11) Do not hesitate to pray for holy spirit, which can produce qualities that glorify Jehovah and that promote continued spiritual progress.—Luke 11:13; John 13:35.

[3] Cultivating the fruitage of the spirit will also help us to be more zealous ministers. For example, love and faith move us to make room in our busy schedule to share regularly in the ministry. Qualities such as peace, long-suffering, kindness, mildness, and self-control help us to react properly to opposers. Joy enables us to find satisfaction in the ministry even when people are unresponsive.

[4] **Kingdom Fruitage:** We also want to bear Kingdom fruitage. That includes offering "a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to [Jehovah's] name." (Heb. 13:15) We do this by zealously and steadfastly proclaiming the good news. Are you endeavoring to bear more Kingdom fruitage by improving your personal ministry?

[5] Jesus indicated that his faithful followers would bear different amounts of fruit. (Matt. 13:23) Therefore, we should not compare ourselves with others but give to Jehovah our best. (Gal. 6:4) An honest self-examination of our personal circumstances in the light of God's Word will help us to continue glorifying Jehovah by "bearing much fruit."—John 15:8.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 11

Song 153

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!*

15 min: Completely Equipped as Teachers of God's Word. Talk based on the February 15, 2002, *Watchtower*, pages 24-8. Some Christians hesitate to offer to study the Bible with interested ones because they do not feel qualified to conduct a study. However, Jehovah qualifies us as ministers by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and his organization. Our aim is not just to place literature. We should endeavor to teach people. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Encourage publishers to be Bible-study conscious.

20 min: Do All Things for God's Glory. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, chapter 13.

Song 144 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 18

Song 217

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Do You Remember? Audience discussion based on the April 15, 2007, *Watchtower*, page 19.

20 min: "We Are Glad to Expend Ourselves in Jehovah's Service!"* Invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures as time permits.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 25

Song 15

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Can You Enter 'a Large Door That Leads to Activity'?"* Briefly interview one or two regular pioneers. What adjustments did they make in order to regular pioneer? What blessings have they enjoyed?

Song 138 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 2

Song 208

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June. Mention the literature offer for July, and have a presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Informal Witnessing—An Important Method of Preaching the Good News. Audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, pages 101-2. Suggest some practical ways to witness informally. Invite audience to relate positive experiences they have had when witnessing informally.

20 min: "Keep On 'Bearing Much Fruit.'"* When considering paragraph 4, include comments on the box "How to 'Bear Fruit With Endurance,'" in the February 1, 2003, *Watchtower*, page 21.

Song 69 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**355**	**106.1**	**64.1**	**39.5**	**4.0**
Pios.	**102,087**	**58.6**	**33.6**	**19.0**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**19,470**	**47.4**	**29.8**	**13.2**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**903,367**	**8.7**	**7.0**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,025,279**		Baptized: **1,913**		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Bible Teach* book, making a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of March, April, and May. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: September 8, 2007 (Gilead graduation); October 6, 2007 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 8, 2008 (Gilead graduation); and May 9-10, 2008 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ It is recommended that applications for regular pioneer service be submitted to the branch office *at least 30 days* before the requested start date. The congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure that they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) card.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 25, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 7 through June 25, 2007. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When speaking, what can we do to ease tension in order to improve our voice quality? [*be* p. 185 pars. 1-3]
2. How can we "become all things to people of all sorts" in our ministry? (1 Cor. 9:20-23) [*be* p. 186 pars. 2-4]
3. How can we imitate Jehovah's example of listening to others? (Gen. 18:23-33; 1 Ki. 22:19-22) [*be* p. 187 pars. 1-2, 5]
4. In what practical ways can we help others to make spiritual progress? [*be* p. 187 par. 6–p. 188 par. 3]
5. Why should we be concerned about showing respect for others? [*be* p. 190 par. 3, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. Why must we endeavor to reach the hearts of those whom we teach? [*be* p. 59 par. 1]
7. What impact does our example have on those whom we teach? [*be* p. 61 par. 1]
8. How can we improve our conversation skills in the home? [*be* p. 62 par. 3]
9. What example of courageous zeal do we find in the prophet Jeremiah? [*si* p. 129 par. 36]
10. What confidence does Lamentations express, yet why is it beneficial in showing the severity of God's judgments of the wicked? [*si* p. 132 par. 13]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. In harmony with Jeremiah's experience as described at Jeremiah 37:21, what assurance can we have?
12. Why might Baruch have said that Jehovah had 'added grief to his pain,' causing him to 'grow weary,' and what was Baruch's initial response to the problem? (Jer. 45:1-5)
13. When did Babylon cease to be inhabited, becoming "a desolate waste in her entirety"? (Jer. 50:13)
14. What principle regarding prayer is made clear at Lamentations 3:8, 9, 42-45?
15. What is pictured by the chariot described in Ezekiel chapter 1?

Can You Enter "a Large Door That Leads to Activity"?

[1] When "a large door that leads to activity" was opened to the apostle Paul, he eagerly took advantage of the opportunity to promote Kingdom interests despite many opposers. (1 Cor. 16:9) Today some 642,000 Kingdom publishers around the world have entered a large door of activity by becoming regular pioneers.

[2] **Circumstances Change:** Although present personal circumstances may limit our activity, circumstances change. Therefore, it is good for us to evaluate our own situation from time to time and not wait for the ideal circumstances. (Eccl. 11:4) Are you a youth about to graduate from high school? Are you a parent whose children will soon begin attending school? Are you nearing retirement from your secular employment? Such changes may free up time and thus allow you to enter the regular pioneer service. A sister who had previously experienced health difficulties decided to enroll as a pioneer at the age of 89. Why? Since she had not been in the hospital in over a year, she felt that her health would allow her to pioneer.

[3] In Paul's case, he originally intended to visit his brothers in Corinth. Yet, he adjusted his plans for the sake of the good news. Many who are regular pioneering today had to make a number of adjustments in order to pioneer. Some have simplified their life to the point where part-time employment is all that is needed to care for their reduced living expenses. They have found delight in their privilege of service. (1 Tim. 6:6-8) Some married couples have made changes that allow them to get by on just one income, thus opening the way for the wife to pioneer.

[4] Do not be quick to dismiss the idea of pioneering for fear that you cannot meet the hour requirement. Just a little over two hours a day is needed. If you are unsure that you can do it, try auxiliary pioneering for a month or two but with a personal goal of 70 hours. This will allow you to taste the joys of pioneering. (Ps. 34:8) Talk to those who are currently pioneering. They may have overcome challenges similar to yours. (Prov. 15:22) Ask Jehovah to bless your efforts to expand your ministry. —1 John 5:14.

[5] **A Worthwhile Pursuit:** Serving as a regular pioneer brings many blessings. It allows you to experience the greater happiness that comes with increased giving. (Acts 20:35) Pioneering will sharpen your ability to handle God's Word of truth aright. (2 Tim. 2:15) It will provide increased opportunities to see Jehovah's hand at work in your behalf. (Acts 11:21; Phil. 4:11-13) Pioneering will also help you to develop spiritual qualities, such as endurance, and will enable you to draw closer to Jehovah. (Jas. 4:8) Can you enter this large door of activity and become a regular pioneer?

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1. What "large door that leads to activity" is open to us?
2. Why is it good to evaluate our situation from time to time?
3. How have some made adjustments so as to regular pioneer?
4. What can we do if we are unsure that we can meet the hour requirement?
5. Why is regular pioneering a worthwhile pursuit?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 15

"Have you noticed that many today are choosing their own standards of right and wrong? [Allow for response.] Here is an example of the timeless direction found in the Bible. [Read a scripture from the box on pages 6-7.] This magazine explains how we are benefited by embracing the Bible's moral values."

Awake!® June

"We all need money to survive. Do you think it is possible to be too concerned about making money? [Allow for response.] Notice what this says about the results of pursuing riches. [Read 1 Timothy 6:10.] This magazine gives some practical suggestions on how to simplify one's life and get by on less money."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"Have you ever wondered why people are mistreated because they are of a different race or nationality or because they speak a different language? [Allow for response.] Notice the reason given here. [Read 1 John 4:20.] This magazine answers the question, Is ethnic harmony possible?"

Awake!® July

"Unlike animals that act on instinct, humans have the ability to choose the standards by which they will live. Where do you think we can go for reliable guidance? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 119:105.] This magazine explains the superiority of the guidance found in the Bible."

OUR KINGDOM M[redacted]

July 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/07 Vol. 50, No. 7

"Happy Is the Man That Keeps On Enduring Trial"

[1] All Christians have to face trials. (2 Tim. 3:12) Trials may come in the form of ill health, economic hardship, temptation, persecution, or in many other ways. Trials imposed by Satan are designed to slow us down, to cause us to neglect our Christian ministry, or even to stop us from serving God. (Job 1:9-11) How does enduring trials lead to happiness? —2 Pet. 2:9.

[2] **Prepare for Trials:** Jehovah has provided his Word of truth, including a record of Jesus' life and teachings. By hearing Jesus' sayings and doing them, we lay a solid foundation and thus prepare for adversity. (Luke 6:47-49) We also draw strength from other provisions—our Christian brothers, congregation meetings, and Bible-based publications from the faithful and discreet slave class. We make liberal use of God's gift of prayer.—Matt. 6:13.

[3] Jehovah has also given us a hope. When we build strong faith in Jehovah's promises, our hope becomes "an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm." (Heb. 6:19) In Bible times, ships never left port without an anchor, even in good weather. If a storm suddenly came up, dropping the anchor could prevent the ship from being blown against a rocky shore. Similarly, building faith in God's promises now will stabilize us when storms of trouble occur. Difficulties can arise very suddenly. Though the preaching activity of Paul and Barnabas was initially well-received in Lystra, the

(*Continued on p. 2, col. 3*)

Exciting Changes for *The Watchtower!*

[1] Earlier this year, congregations received a thrilling announcement: Starting in January 2008, *The Watchtower* will have two different editions, one for the public and the other for our Christian brotherhood! Perhaps you have been wondering: 'How will the two magazines be different? What are the advantages of having separate editions? Are there any new features to look forward to?'

[2] **The Differences:** The issue dated the first of the month will be known as the Public Edition. All the articles in this issue will be prepared with the public in mind. The issue dated the 15th of the month will be known as the Study Edition and will *not* be offered in field service. It will contain all the study articles needed for one month as well as secondary articles that are of particular interest to dedicated Christians. The Public Edition of *The Watchtower* not only will appeal to Witnesses but will especially appeal to non-Witnesses who may accept the Bible. *Awake!*, on the other hand, will still be aimed at a broader audience, including skeptics and those who profess a non-Christian religion.

[3] **The Advantages:** In the Study Edition, it will no longer be necessary to explain terms like "pioneer" in ways that non-Witnesses can grasp. This edition can also contain pointed information prepared especially for Jehovah's Witnesses and Bible students who are making spiritual progress. What about the Public Edition? Since the subjects and the style of writing will be directed toward the public, a non-Witness should enjoy reading the magazine from cover to cover. Of course, every Witness of Jehovah will benefit from reading each issue. Because we will be offering just one *Watchtower* with one *Awake!* in the field ministry each month, we will have an entire month to develop effective presentations.

[4] **New Features:** Some exciting new features are planned for the Public Edition of *The Watchtower*. One feature will discuss basic Scriptural teachings in a very simple format. Another will show how the Bible can help families. Bible study projects will be outlined for young people. Each issue will have an article highlighting specific Bible passages that teach us about Jehovah as a person.

[5] We pray that Jehovah will bless this new arrangement for *The Watchtower*. May that journal, along with *Awake!*, reach many more deserving ones with the good news. —Matt. 10:11.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 9

Song 4

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!*

15 min: What Brings True Happiness? Talk and audience discussion based on the May 15, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 28-9, paragraphs 11-12. Briefly interview someone who has chosen to center his life on the ministry rather than to pursue pleasures or a secular career. What caused him to pursue spiritual goals? How has this brought happiness?

20 min: Question Box. To be handled by an elder. Read and discuss entire article. Include comments on points found in the *Awake!* of May 22, 2005, pages 13-14, under the subheadings "The Dangers of Deception and Secrecy" and "Choosing the Real Over the Virtual."

Song 91 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 16

Song 16

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Maintaining the Peace and Cleanness of the Congregation. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* from page 144 to the subheading on page 150.

15 min: "Exciting Changes for *The Watchtower*!"*

Song 189 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 23

Song 133

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August *Awake!*

20 min: Be Hospitable to One Another. Talk based on the January 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 21-3. Include a brief interview of one or two publishers who are known for being hospitable. How have they endeavored to show hospitality? What blessings have they and their family enjoyed as a result?

15 min: Preparing Effective Introductions. Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 9, paragraphs 1-2. Include two demonstrations showing how to present the offer for August.

Song 61 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 30

Song 200

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July.

15 min: Self-Sacrifice Brings Jehovah's Blessing. Talk based on the November 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 8-9.

20 min: "Happy Is the Man That Keeps On Enduring Trial."* When considering paragraph 3, invite the audience to comment on how strong faith helped them when a trial arose suddenly. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 13 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 6

Song 106

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Why We Go Back Again and Again."* When considering paragraph 5, invite the audience to comment on what caused them to take an interest in the truth when previously they were opposed or not interested.

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Enduring Trial (*Continued*)

situation changed quickly when Jewish opposers arrived.—Acts 14:8-19.

4 **Endurance Results in Happiness:** Remaining steadfast in the ministry despite opposition gives us peace of mind. We rejoice when we are counted worthy to be dishonored in behalf of Christ. (Acts 5:40, 41) Enduring trials helps us to develop the qualities of humility, obedience, and endurance more fully. (Deut. 8:16; Heb. 5:8; Jas. 1:2, 3) It teaches us to rely on Jehovah, to trust in his promises, and to take refuge in him.—Prov. 18:10.

5 We know that trials are temporary. (2 Cor. 4:17, 18) Trials provide us with opportunities to demonstrate the depth of our love for Jehovah. By enduring them, we can provide an answer to Satan's accusations. Therefore, we do not give up! "Happy is the man that keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life."—Jas. 1:12.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**434**	**109.2**	**65.1**	**41.3**	**3.8**
Pios.	**102,288**	**69.1**	**35.5**	**21.1**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**68,260**	**50.3**	**28.2**	**11.7**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**878,204**	**10.6**	**7.5**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,049,186**		Baptized: **2,230**		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **July:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Bible Teach* book, making a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with the objective of starting a Bible study.
- Since September has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.
- Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "What Marks the Bible as Authentic?"
- It is recommended that applications for regular pioneer service be submitted to the branch office *at least 30 days* before the requested start date. The congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure that they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) card.
- The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close to August 31, 2007, as possible. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the *Literature Inventory* (S-18) form. The total number of magazines on hand should be obtained from the magazine servant(s). The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form. Each coordinating congregation will receive three *Literature Inventory* forms. *Please mail the original to the branch office no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third form may be used as a work sheet.
- The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

QUESTION BOX

- What are the dangers of using the Internet to associate with someone we do not know?

A number of Web sites have been designed for people to meet and correspond over the Internet. Many of these sites allow individuals to create and post their own profile, which may include pictures and other personal information. People who view the profile can then make contact. Such Web sites are very popular among young people, and some youths in the congregation have used them to interact with others who claim to be Jehovah's Witnesses.

It is easy for a person whom we meet over the Internet to be deceptive about his identity, his spirituality, or his motives. (Ps. 26:4) An individual claiming to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses may actually be an unbeliever, a disfellowshipped person, or even an active apostate. (Gal. 2:4) Reportedly, many pedophiles use such Web sites to find their victims.

Even if we are convinced that those with whom we are corresponding are in good standing in the congregation, conversations in such a setting can easily drift toward unwholesome material. This is because people tend to be less inhibited with individuals they have not met personally. They may also view online communication as private and feel that whatever they say will not come to the attention of others, such as their parents or the elders. Sadly, a number of youths from Christian households have been ensnared and have become involved in obscene speech. (Eph. 5:3, 4; Col. 3:8) Others have included sexually provocative pictures of themselves, suggestive nicknames, or links to sexually explicit music videos in their computer profile.

In view of the foregoing, parents should monitor their children's activity on the computer. (Prov. 29:15) It would be dangerous to invite a stranger into our home or to allow him to be alone with our children. Similarly, it is dangerous for us or our children to make friends with strangers over the Internet, even if they claim to be Jehovah's Witnesses.—Prov. 22:3.

Why We Go Back Again and Again

1 In many places, we cover our territory quite frequently. We continue to go back to the same houses again and again, though the householder may have told us he is not interested. Why do we keep speaking to those who have not responded favorably in the past?

2 **Love for Jehovah and for People:** The primary reason we persevere in the ministry is our love for Jehovah. Our heart moves us to continue telling others about our great God. (Luke 6:45) Our love for Jehovah impels us to obey his commands and help others to do the same. (Prov. 27:11; 1 John 5:3) Our enduring faithfully in this work does not depend upon the response of the people. Even when first-century Christians were persecuted, they continued preaching "without letup." (Acts 5:42) When people refuse to listen, rather than allowing this to discourage us, we remain steadfast, demonstrating the depth of our love and devotion to Jehovah.

3 We also persevere because we love our neighbor. (Luke 10:27) Jehovah does not want *any* to be destroyed. (2 Pet. 3:9) Even in frequently worked territory, we are still finding those who want to serve Jehovah. For example, in Guadeloupe, where 1 out of every 56 people is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, 214 were baptized last year. Almost 20,000 attended the Memorial, about 1 for every 22 people in Guadeloupe!

4 **Changes in the Territory:** The makeup of our territory is constantly changing. The next time we call where there was no favorable response, a different member of the family—perhaps one who has never heard our message—may open the door and listen. Or we may find new occupants who are interested. Children with opposed parents grow up and leave home. Such ones may be willing to hear the Kingdom message.

5 People also change. The apostle Paul was once "a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man." (1 Tim. 1:13) Likewise, many who are serving Jehovah today were at one time not interested in the truth. Some may have even opposed the good news at one time. As world conditions change, some opposers or those who were indifferent may be moved to listen. Others may be more responsive after experiencing a personal tragedy, such as a death in the family, the loss of employment, a financial problem, or a health issue.

6 This system of things is winding down, but our work of preaching and teaching is speeding up. (Isa. 60:22) Therefore, we continue to preach with enthusiasm and strive to maintain a positive attitude. The next individual we speak with may listen. We need to keep on speaking! 'By doing this we will save both ourselves and those who listen to us.'—1 Tim. 4:16.

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1. What question arises regarding our preaching work?
2. What is the primary reason we persevere in the ministry?
3. How will love for people help us to continue preaching?
4. In what ways do territories change?
5. What may cause people to become more receptive?
6. Why must we continue to preach with enthusiasm?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 15

"The death of loved ones can cause much sorrow. Do you think that a part of them continues to live on? [Allow for response.] Jesus gave this encouraging promise. [Read John 5:28, 29.] Since Jesus said that a resurrection 'is coming,' this magazine explains from the Bible where the dead are right now."

Awake!® July

"Many people live their life the best way they can and feel that it is important to be a good person. Is that your approach to life? [Allow for response.] Notice the danger if our definition of what is good is different from God's. [Read Proverbs 14:12.] This article discusses what it means to be a good person in God's eyes." Feature the article that begins on page 20.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Aug. 1

"I would like to get your opinion on something that Jesus said. [Read Matthew 5:3.] Do you feel that spirituality is important for happiness? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about true spirituality and how we may obtain it."

Awake!® Aug.

"Where do you think parents can find advice that will really help them? [Allow for response.] Notice this promise made in the Bible. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This magazine shows just how practical the Bible can be in helping parents raise happy children."

OUR KINGDOM [redacted] RY

August 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/07 Vol. 50, No. 8

We Cherish Our Privileges!

¹ Throughout mankind's existence, Jehovah has extended to his servants many types of privileges. He has given privileges to them regardless of their gender, age, or station in life. (Luke 1:41, 42; Acts 7:46; Phil. 1:29) What privileges does he extend to us today?

² **Some of Our Privileges:** We have the privilege of being taught by Jehovah. (Matt. 13:11, 15) Praising Jehovah by our expressions during congregation meetings is another privilege we enjoy. (Ps. 35:18) When we have opportunities to comment, we do so eagerly. Similarly, if we view each assignment in the congregation as an honor, we will fulfill it to the best of our ability. Do we regularly participate in the privilege of keeping the Kingdom Hall clean and in good repair?

³ Although millions wonder if their prayers are heard by God, we enjoy the privilege of having our prayers heard by the most important Personage in the universe. (Prov. 15:29) Jehovah personally listens to the prayers of his servants. (1 Pet. 3:12) He places no limit on how often we can approach him. What a cherished gift we have, to be able to pray "on every occasion"!—Eph. 6:18.

⁴ **"God's Fellow Workers":** One of our finest privileges is that of proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom as "God's fellow workers." (1 Cor. 3:9) This is a work that brings satisfaction and refreshment. (John 4:34) Jehovah does not have to use humans to accomplish this work, but he has given us this assignment as an expression of his love. (Luke 19:39, 40) In doing so, Jehovah has not given this privilege to just anyone. Those who share in the public ministry must meet and maintain certain spiritual qualifications. (Isa. 52:11) Do we show that we value this privilege by making the ministry an important part of our weekly routine?

⁵ Privileges from Jehovah make our life rich. (Prov. 10:22) Never take them for granted! By demonstrating that we truly cherish our privileges of service, we please our heavenly Father, the Giver of "every good gift and every perfect present."—Jas. 1:17.

Worshipping Jehovah as a Family

¹ In Bible times, family members did many things together. They performed daily chores and primarily worshipped Jehovah as a family. (Lev. 10:12-14; Deut. 31:12) Today, in many places, family members do very little together. However, Christians recognize the value of engaging in activities as a family, especially when it comes to worship. How it must please the Originator of the family to see families worshipping him in unity!

² **Preach Together:** Working together to preach the good news strengthens the family bond. Therefore, in addition to accompanying others in the congregation to preach, an elder will also regularly work with his wife and children. (1 Tim. 3:4, 5) Despite having a full schedule, even traveling overseers arrange time to work with their wives in the ministry.

³ Parents who preach with their children are able to help them progress as evangelizers. Not only will children observe their parents' joy and satisfaction in the ministry but they will see their parents express their own love for Jehovah and for fellow humans. (Deut. 6:5-7) The importance of this does not diminish as children in the home grow older. One couple with three sons between the ages of 15 and 21 continue to accompany them in the ministry on a regular basis. The father said: "We teach them something every time. And we make sure that it is an enjoyable, encouraging experience."

⁴ **Prepare Together:** Families have found it beneficial to prepare for the ministry together. Children often enjoy practice sessions with members of the family taking turns giving the presentation or being the householder. Some use a few minutes at the end of the family study to do this.

⁵ Our joy is increased when we engage in important and satisfying activities with those we love. How enjoyable it is for family members to work together in the field ministry from house to house as well as in making return visits and conducting Bible studies! As you thus worship Jehovah with your family, you can joyfully declare: "As for me and my household, we shall serve Jehovah."—Josh. 24:15.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 13

Song 20

15 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August *Awake!* In one demonstration, have the publisher use one of the suggestions in paragraph 3 on page 3 of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* to raise a question that he will answer on the return visit. Discuss "New Circuit Assembly Program." Announce the date of the next circuit assembly if available.

15 min: Benefiting From Theocratic Subjection. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 15 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

15 min: "Worshipping Jehovah as a Family."* Invite the audience to comment on how they have benefited from sharing in the ministry as a family. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 48 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 20

Song 100

10 min: Local announcements. Discuss "New Special Assembly Day Program," and announce the date of the next special assembly day if known.

15 min: Start a Bible Study on the Initial Call During September. Audience discussion. During September we will offer the *Bible Teach* book and endeavor to discuss a few paragraphs with the householder on the initial visit. Review the suggestions in the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, and have one or two demonstrations showing how to start a Bible study on the initial call.

20 min: "How the Congregation Book Study Arrangement Helps Us."* When considering paragraph 5, include comments from the *Organized* book, page 41, paragraph 2.

Song 6 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 27

Song 98

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September *Awake!*

10 min: 'Make Friends by Means of the Unrighteous Riches.' Talk by an elder based on the December 1, 1994, *Watchtower*, pages 13-18.

25 min: "A Worthy Goal for the New Service Year."* Interview one or two who served as auxiliary pioneers recently. What adjustments did they make in their schedule? How did they benefit? If available, one of those interviewed could be someone who was able to auxiliary pioneer because of the help and support of others in his household. When discussing paragraph 9, mention the dates of the circuit overseer's next visit if known.

Song 196 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 3

Song 50

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August.

15 min: "We Cherish Our Privileges!"* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

20 min: "How to Turn Magazine Placements Into Bible Studies."* Include a brief demonstration of one of the suggestions in paragraph 2. Remind publishers that a Bible study may be reported when it has been conducted two times after the study arrangement was demonstrated and if there is reason to believe that the study will continue.

Song 2 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**427**	**107.0**	**72.4**	**42.8**	**4.1**
Pios.	**101,927**	**65.7**	**41.0**	**20.7**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**129,987**	**48.2**	**35.6**	**10.9**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**820,667**	**9.8**	**8.0**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,053,008**			Baptized: **3,289**	

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How to Turn Magazine Placements Into Bible Studies

1 On Saturdays we generally feature the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines in the ministry. However, this is only the first step in reaching our goal of teaching honesthearted ones the truth. Below are some suggestions on how to place the *Bible Teach* book on a return visit and start a Bible study. These may be adapted to your territory and put in your own words. Feel free to use another approach if it is effective for you.

2 **Use the Introductory Pages:** When you return, you could say: "The magazines I left you direct attention to the Bible. Notice why Bible reading is so important." Read Isaiah 48:17, 18; John 17:3; or another appropriate scripture. Then after introducing the *Bible Teach* book and handing the householder a copy, you could proceed as follows:

■ "The Bible gives us a real hope for the future." Show the householder pages 4-5 and ask, "Which of these promises would you like to see fulfilled?" Direct him to the chapter that discusses the Scriptural promise he selected, and briefly consider a paragraph or two if he allows.

■ Or you could say, "The Bible answers the most important questions of life." Direct his attention to page 6, and ask if he has ever wondered about any of the questions at the bottom of the page. Turn to the chapter that gives the answer, and briefly discuss a paragraph or two.

■ Or you could point out some of the titles in the table of contents and ask which one of the subjects interests him. Turn to that chapter, and briefly demonstrate a Bible study.

3 **Leave a Question on the Initial Visit:** Another option is to lay the groundwork for the return visit on the initial call. After the householder accepts the magazines, raise a question, and promise to answer it on your next visit. Endeavor to make a definite arrangement to return, and be sure to keep the appointment. (Matt. 5:37) When you go back, remind the householder of the question, and briefly read and discuss the answer from the *Bible Teach* book. Hand him a copy so that he can follow along. Here are a few examples:

■ *If the magazine you placed deals with worsening world conditions, you could say,* "Next time we can discuss the Bible's answer to this question, What changes will God bring about on the earth?" Use pages 4-5 when you return. Or you could raise the question, "Are tragedies God's will?" On the return visit, show the householder paragraphs 7-8 in chapter 1.

■ *If the magazine you placed deals with the family, before leaving you might raise this question,* "What can each member of the family do to make family life happier?" When you return consider paragraph 4 in chapter 14.

■ *If the magazine you placed deals with the reliability of the Bible, you could raise this question for your next discussion,* "Is the Bible scientifically accurate?" On the return visit, consider paragraph 8 in chapter 2.

4 At the end of each discussion, raise another question to be answered on the next visit. Once a regular study is established, consider the book systematically from beginning to end. What if the householder does not accept the *Bible Teach* book? You can still continue to take him the magazines and have Scriptural discussions with him. As you cultivate his interest, he may in time accept a Bible study.

5 *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* may stir up a person's desire to learn what the Bible really teaches. Therefore, make a special effort to start Bible studies with those who accept the magazines. In this way, we will obey Jesus' instructions to "make disciples . . . , teaching them."—Matt. 28:19, 20.

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1. What is our goal when placing magazines?
2. How could we use the introductory pages in the *Bible Teach* book to start a Bible study?
3. How might we start a Bible study after placing magazines that deal with (a) worsening world conditions? (b) the family? (c) the reliability of the Bible?
4. What should we do if the householder does not accept the *Bible Teach* book?
5. Why should we endeavor to do more than leave magazines with people?

A Worthy Goal for the New Service Year

[1] We must set goals if we want to make spiritual progress. What personal goals have you set for the new service year? An excellent goal is auxiliary pioneering for one or more months. Since this enjoyable activity usually requires some advance planning, now is a good time to begin thinking ahead. Why consider auxiliary pioneering as a goal?

[2] **Reasons to Auxiliary Pioneer:** Auxiliary pioneering enables us to please our heavenly Father "more fully" by spending increased time in the ministry. (1 Thess. 4:1) As we consider all that Jehovah has done for us, our hearts move us to tell others about him. (Ps. 34:1, 2) Jehovah takes note of and appreciates the personal sacrifices we make in order to do more in the ministry. (Heb. 6:10) Knowing that we are pleasing Jehovah by our hard work brings us great joy.—1 Chron. 29:9.

[3] Usually, the more you do something, the easier and more enjoyable it becomes. Spending increased time in the ministry will make you more comfortable speaking at the door. You will become more proficient at starting conversations and in using the Bible. The more you discuss your faith, the stronger it will become. Many who were not conducting a Bible study have been able to start one while auxiliary pioneering.

[4] Auxiliary pioneering may also be the boost needed to get out of a spiritual rut. A former regular pioneer who felt he was putting too much emphasis on secular work decided to auxiliary pioneer for one month. He said: "I could not believe how that one month energized me spiritually! I made arrangements to auxiliary pioneer continuously, which led to my becoming a regular pioneer once again."

[5] **Overcome Obstacles:** Some may hesitate to apply because they feel they lack ability as preachers. If this is causing you to hold back, Jehovah can help you as he did Jeremiah. (Jer. 1:6-10) Although Moses was "slow of mouth and slow of tongue," Jehovah used him to accomplish His will. (Ex. 4:10-12) If you feel inadequate, petition Jehovah for courage.

[6] Do you hesitate to apply because of health problems or a busy schedule? If you are infirm, pacing yourself may make auxiliary pioneering possible. If you have a busy schedule, you may find that you can move some nonessential activities to another month. Some with a full-time

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1. What goal might we consider for the new service year?
2. Why consider auxiliary pioneering as a goal?
3, 4. How do we benefit from auxiliary pioneering?
5. How may we be able to overcome feelings of inadequacy?
6. How may it be possible to auxiliary pioneer despite health problems or a busy schedule?

job have been able to buy out time to auxiliary pioneer by taking one or two days of vacation.—Col. 4:5.

[7] **How to Do It:** Make your desire a matter of prayer. Ask Jehovah to bless your efforts to expand your ministry. (Rom. 12:11, 12) He can help you make wise decisions regarding how to adjust your schedule. (Jas. 1:5) If you lack the desire, ask Jehovah to help you find pleasure in the preaching work.—Luke 10:1, 17.

[8] Discuss as a family the goal of auxiliary pioneering. (Prov. 15:22) Perhaps one member of the family could auxiliary pioneer with the support of others in the household. Discuss with others in the congregation your desire to pioneer, especially with those who have similar circumstances. This may generate increased enthusiasm to auxiliary pioneer.

[9] As you review your theocratic calendar for the new service year, when might you be able to auxiliary pioneer? If you work full-time or go to school, you may want to consider months that have a holiday or that have five Saturdays or five Sundays. For example, September, December, March, and August have five full weekends. The month of May has five Saturdays, and June has five Sundays. If you have health problems, consider months that usually have good weather. You may also consider pioneering during the month the circuit overseer is scheduled to serve your congregation. During his visit, you will have the added privilege of attending the first half of the meeting that is held with the regular pioneers. Since the Memorial falls on March 22 next year, March, April, and May are excellent choices. Once you have chosen the month or months that you want to auxiliary pioneer, begin writing out a schedule that will enable you to meet the hour requirement.

[10] Even if you feel that you are unable to auxiliary pioneer during this coming service year, you can still maintain the pioneer spirit. Continue to do all that you can in the ministry, confident that Jehovah is pleased with your whole-souled effort to give him your best. (Gal. 6:4) Be supportive, and encourage those who are able to auxiliary pioneer. Perhaps you can adjust your schedule to share in the ministry an additional day of the week with those who are pioneering.

[11] Jehovah's people have a sense of urgency. There is a job to get done —the preaching of the good news. Lives are involved, and the time left is reduced. (1 Cor. 7:29-31) Love for God and for neighbor will move us to do all that we can in the ministry. With effort and good planning, we may be able to auxiliary pioneer at least one month during the new service year—a worthy goal indeed!

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7. Why is it beneficial to make auxiliary pioneering a matter of prayer?

8. How might applying Proverbs 15:22 enable you to auxiliary pioneer?

9. Which months might you choose to auxiliary pioneer?

10. What can you do if it is not possible to auxiliary pioneer?

11. Why should we have a sense of urgency?

New Circuit Assembly Program

Jehovah deserves to be glorified. How do we glorify Jehovah? What challenges are some facing in this regard? What blessings come to those who glorify God now? The circuit assembly program for the 2008 service year will provide satisfying answers to these questions. It has as its theme "Do All Things for God's Glory." (1 Cor. 10:31) Consider what is in store for us during the upcoming two days of rich spiritual instruction.

The district overseer will speak on the subjects "Why Give God Glory?" and "Be Exemplary in Meeting God's Requirements." He will give the public discourse, "Who Are the People Who Glorify God?," and the closing talk, "Unitedly Glorifying God Worldwide." He will also conduct the Theocratic Ministry School. The circuit overseer will speak on the themes "Take Delight in Reflecting God's Glory," "Giving Attention to the Needs of the Circuit," and "Remain 'Firmly Set in the Truth,'" which is based on 2 Peter 1:12. In addition, we will learn how "The Pioneer Ministry Glorifies God." "Glorifying God in All Aspects of Our Life," the first of two thought-provoking symposiums, will explore the depth of meaning in the inspired words found at 1 Corinthians 10:31. The symposium "Rendering Sacred Service to Praise Jehovah" will deal with various facets of our worship. We will enjoy the summary of *The Watchtower* and the discussion of the daily text on Sunday. There will also be an opportunity for baptism.

The majority of mankind refuse to acknowledge God. Many are too distracted by human schemes to ponder the magnificence of Jehovah. (John 5:44) But we are convinced of the value of spending time considering how to "Do All Things for God's Glory." Plan to be on hand and to benefit fully from all four sessions.

New Special Assembly Day Program

The theme of the special assembly day program for the 2008 service year is "We Are the Clay—Jehovah Is Our Potter," based on Isaiah 64:8. The Scriptural admonition provided by means of this program will increase our appreciation for Jehovah's wisdom, justice, power, and love as the Great Potter.

The circuit overseer's talk, "Serving as Honorable Vessels in the Ministry," will show how increasing numbers are enjoying the rich blessing of knowing the truth and sharing it with others. The talk "Meditation Will Safeguard You" will reveal how serious contemplation of Jehovah's righteous principles protects us. The visiting speaker will address the audience on the themes "Not 'Fashioned After This System of Things'" and "Be Molded by the Great Potter." Parents and young ones will find encouragement in the parts "Youths Who Are Useful to Jehovah" and "Vital Role of Parents in the Molding Process." Through demonstrations and interviews, we will delight to hear and observe what our brothers and sisters are accomplishing in their ministry. Those who wish to symbolize their dedication to God by water baptism should inform the presiding overseer as soon as possible. Be sure to bring your copy of the issue of *The Watchtower* to be studied the week of the special assembly day.

Whatever the Great Potter purposes he accomplishes. But it is up to each one of us to choose how we will respond to his shaping of us. Those who wisely submit to Jehovah's patterns and refinements can, as a lump of clay on a potter's wheel, be fashioned, polished, and transformed into useful vessels. When we cooperate with Jehovah, we magnify his sovereignty and receive many blessings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Bible Teach* book be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with the objective of starting a Bible study. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the brochure *Keep on the Watch!*

- Since September has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

- Congregations should begin requesting the *2008 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily—2008,* and the *2008 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the monthly "Announcement to All Congregations."

- The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

- On September 1 and 2, 2007, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Wallkill Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 27, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 2 through August 27, 2007.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we show respect for others in our ministry and in the congregation setting? [*be* p. 192 pars. 2-4]
2. What is vital if we are to manifest conviction when we express ourselves? [*be* p. 196 pars. 1-3]
3. What are some suggestions that will help us to be tactful when witnessing to others? [*be* p. 198 pars. 1-5]
4. How does being tactful involve right timing when witnessing to others? (Prov. 25:11) [*be* p. 199 pars. 1-3]
5. How can we keep the tone of our talks positive? [*be* p. 203 par. 3–p. 204 par. 1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What can be said about Ezekiel's writership as well as the canonicity and authenticity of the book of Ezekiel? [*si* p. 133 par. 3]
7. What is one quality that is essential for a person to endure injustice? [*w*05 6/1 p. 29 par. 4]
8. What do we learn from Jesus' response to the Sadducees who questioned him about the resurrection? (Luke 20:37, 38) [*be* p. 66 par. 4]
9. When a Bible student or a fellow believer asks what he should do in a given situation, how should you answer? [*be* p. 69 pars. 4-5]
10. What is involved in being "made new in the force actuating your mind"? (Eph. 4:23) [*be* p. 74 par. 4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. At Ezekiel 9:2-4, whom does the man in linen represent, and what does the "mark on the foreheads" denote? [*w*88 9/15 p. 14 par. 18]
12. How are the religious leaders of Christendom like the "stupid prophets, who [were] walking after their own spirit," described at Ezekiel 13:3? [*w*99 10/1 p. 13]
13. In uttering the "proverbial saying" recorded at Ezekiel 18:2, what were the Israelites trying to do, and what important lesson about accountability is highlighted? [*w*88 9/15 p. 18 par. 10]
14. In what sense did Ezekiel become "speechless," or "mute," during the time of Jerusalem's siege and destruction? (Ezek. 24:27; 33:22) [*w*03 12/1 p. 29]
15. Who is "Gog of the land of Magog," and when does he move to destroy Jehovah's people? (Ezek. 38:2, 16) [*w*97 3/1 p. 14 par. 1–p. 15 par. 3]

How the Congregation Book Study Arrangement Helps Us

[1] Each of our five weekly meetings is different in its format and purpose. Yet, all of them are important in helping us to "consider one another to incite to love and fine works." (Heb. 10:24, 25) What are some unique and beneficial features of the Congregation Book Study arrangement?

[2] **Help to Progress Spiritually:** The number of people attending a book study is generally far less than the number attending the other congregation meetings. This makes it easier to develop friendships that are a source of spiritual support. (Prov. 18:24) Have you made an effort to get to know everyone in your book study group, perhaps asking each one to work with you in the ministry? The book study arrangement also enables the book study overseer to know the unique circumstances of each one in the group and to provide personal encouragement.—Prov. 27:23.

[3] Have you invited your Bible students to attend the book study with you? Interested ones who are reluctant to attend our larger meetings may be less nervous about attending a smaller meeting, especially in a private home. The intimate atmosphere makes it easier for young ones and those newly associated to share in commenting. And since the group is smaller, we have more opportunities to participate and praise Jehovah.—Ps. 111:1.

[4] Book studies are generally held at convenient locations throughout the territory. While it is not possible for all to be assigned to the location nearest them, attending our assigned book study may require less travel than attending other congregation meetings. The book study location may also serve as a convenient meeting place for field service.

[5] **Help for the Ministry:** The book study overseer is interested in assisting each one to have a regular, meaningful, and joyful share in the ministry. Therefore, he endeavors to work with everyone in the group, giving personal assistance in various features of the ministry. If you find a particular aspect of the ministry to be challenging, such as making return visits, let your book study overseer know. Perhaps he can arrange for you to work with an experienced publisher in the group. Your ability to teach on Bible studies will be refined by paying careful attention to the book study overseer's good teaching methods as he conducts the book study.—1 Cor. 4:17.

[6] What a blessing the Congregation Book Study is! This loving arrangement from Jehovah helps us maintain our sure spiritual footing during the challenging times in which we live.—Ps. 26:12.

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1. How do our five weekly meetings help us?
2. What benefits come from meeting with a smaller group at the book study?
3. How does the book study arrangement promote commenting as well as attendance by Bible students?
4. The book study arrangement may be convenient in what ways?
5. How may we receive help in the ministry from our book study overseer?
6. Why should we seek to benefit from the book study arrangement to the full?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Aug. 15

"I would like to have your opinion on what this says. [Read Hebrews 3:4.] Do you agree that the universe had an intelligent Designer? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines whether belief in a Designer is compatible with true science."

Awake!® Aug.

When meeting a young person, you might say: "Many your age have been hurt by malicious gossip. Has that happened to you? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives good advice that can help us if we are the victim of gossip. It also shows how we can steer clear of harmful gossip ourselves." Feature the article that begins on page 12, and read one of the scriptures from the article.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Sept. 1

"Many feel that the 'Old Testament' provides helpful historical information. But they wonder if its guidelines are relevant for today. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 15:4.] This magazine shows how the 'Old Testament' provides beneficial advice for daily living and real hope for the future."

Awake!® Sept.

"Do you think that natural disasters are acts of God? [Allow for response. Then read Deuteronomy 32:4.] This magazine examines why God has allowed natural disasters to occur. It also outlines how to protect your family."

OUR KINGDOM [redacted] RY

September 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/07 Vol. 50, No. 9

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

We rejoice to see the progress of the work in the United States branch territory during the 2007 service year! We reached an all-time peak of 103,648 regular pioneers in December. A number of Bethelites have been reassigned to the field as special and regular pioneers, and they are having a positive effect on the preaching work. The branch office also oversees the work in the Turks and Caicos islands. The 161 publishers and pioneers reporting there in March conducted 307 Bible studies.

Nearly 51 million copies of *Kingdom News* No. 37, "The End of False Religion Is Near!" were distributed throughout the United States branch territory. After receiving and reading a copy, an inactive sister had trouble sleeping. The next Sunday, she attended the meeting and requested a Bible study. Interested ones used the coupon on the back of the *Kingdom News* to request 2,286 copies of the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure and 1,087 Bible studies.

The objective of such campaigns is to help honesthearted ones to learn what the Bible really teaches. (Matt. 28:19, 20) As you preach, remember to take note of any interest found, and return with the goal of starting a Bible study. We are happy to be working shoulder to shoulder with you in this important activity, and we send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

United States Branch Office

Reaching Out in Our Ministry

[1] The apostle Paul admonished Christians to walk in God's way and to "keep on doing it more fully." (1 Thess. 4:1) What does this involve for us? One thing is that we should continually look for ways to reach out for more spiritual activity, endeavoring always to be 'fully accomplishing our ministry.'—2 Tim. 4:5.

[2] **Motive:** Reaching out in our ministry stems from our desire to serve our Creator more fully. We want to grow spiritually and look for ways to improve our ministry. A good routine with proper motive will help us attain theocratic goals.—Ps. 1:1, 2; Phil. 4:6; Heb. 10:24, 25.

[3] Working at expanding our ministry requires that we cultivate a giving, self-sacrificing spirit. Such a spirit can be cultivated by prayerfully meditating on Jesus' fine example. (Matt. 20:28) Jesus received great joy from serving others throughout his ministry. (Acts 20:35) We can imitate Jesus by showing personal interest in people and being alert to opportunities to reach out in our ministry. —Isa. 6:8.

[4] **Role of Parents:** A desire to serve others and expand our ministry can be instilled in children at an early age. Young ones will take note of the diligence of family members and their active participation in expanding their ministry. One brother was motivated to reach out as a young boy as a result of working along with his grandfather on theocratic projects. Seeing his grandfather's diligence and joy moved him to seek opportunities to serve his brothers. He is now a ministerial servant.

[5] **Need for Brothers:** "If any man is reaching out . . . , he is desirous of a fine work." (1 Tim. 3:1) These words encourage brothers to reach out to qualify for further service privileges in Jehovah's organization. Doing so does not require special skills or outstanding natural abilities. A brother reaching out will seek first the Kingdom and have a zealous share in the ministry. (Matt. 6:33; 2 Tim. 4:5) He will endeavor to be a good example for others.

[6] **Worldwide:** Jehovah is speeding up the ingathering. (Isa. 60:22) There is an urgent need for all those following Jesus' example to work at their ministry more fully. The worldwide report for the 2006 service year shows that 248,327 were baptized. That represents an average of over 680 new ones every day! May we all continue to look for ways to work at our ministry more fully.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 10

Song 225

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September *Awake!* In each case, the magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one magazine is featured.

15 min: Question Box. Audience discussion to be handled by an elder. As time permits, read and discuss the cited scriptures.

20 min: "Follow the Example Set by Jesus."* Invite audience to relate how they have benefited from the good example of others.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 17

Song 60

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Service overseer reviews the past service year, focusing on the good things accomplished in the ministry. Give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two areas that need attention during the new service year. Comment on the activity of the pioneers, commending them for their good work. Relate the good results achieved from efforts to assist inactive ones.

20 min: A United Brotherhood. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 16 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

Song 74 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 24

Song 162

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Use the *Know the Bible* Tract to Start Bible Studies in October. The offer for October is the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, the *Know the Bible* tract may be used to start a Bible study. Briefly discuss the tract after having attendants distribute one copy, if available, to everyone in attendance. Explain that the tract may be considered with the householder in whole or in part either on the initial call or when you return. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October *Awake!* In one demonstration, the publisher leaves the tract after the householder refuses the magazines. In the other demonstration, after the householder accepts the magazines, the publisher gives him the tract, discusses page 5 with him, refers to the coupon for the *Bible Teach* book on page 6, and offers to return with the book.

Song 222 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 1

Song 88

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September.

15 min: Branch Letter. Talk and audience discussion based on the letter appearing on the front page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Invite audience to relate local experiences from the recent campaign to invite people to attend the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention.

20 min: "Reaching Out in Our Ministry."* Include comments from brothers and sisters who are reaching out, and have them explain how they continue to look for ways to reach out in their ministry. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 102 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**415**	**107.8**	**74.9**	**41.8**	**4.0**
Pios.	**100,543**	**65.6**	**39.1**	**20.1**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**43,731**	**49.3**	**33.5**	**12.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**892,513**	**9.9**	**8.0**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,037,202**			Baptized:	**3,644**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. When householders already have this publication, show how they can benefit from it by briefly demonstrating a Bible study. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with the objective of starting a Bible study. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the brochure *Keep on the Watch!* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. As an alternative offer, you may use *Draw Close to Jehovah* or *The Secret of Family Happiness*.

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2007, *Watch Tower Publications Index 2007*, and *Watchtower Library—2007 Edition* on CD-ROM with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please note that *Watchtower Library—2007 Edition* is a provision for baptized members of the congregation and is made available only through the congregation.

■ The video program *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* will be considered at a Service Meeting in December. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of June, July, and August. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (TO-33) and *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (TO-34) are to be completed each September. Copies of the completed forms should be promptly provided to the body of elders for each congregation that meets in the Kingdom Hall as well as to the Regional Building Committee. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review both work sheets.

QUESTION BOX

■ Does "the faithful and discreet slave" endorse independent groups of Witnesses who meet together to engage in Scriptural research or debate? —Matt. 24:45, 47.

No, it does not. And yet, in various parts of the world, a few associates of our organization have formed groups to do independent research on Bible-related subjects. Some have pursued an independent group study of Biblical Hebrew and Greek so as to analyze the accuracy of the *New World Translation*. Others explore scientific subjects related to the Bible. They have created Web sites and chat rooms for the purpose of exchanging and debating their views. They have also held conferences and produced publications to present their findings and to supplement what is provided at our Christian meetings and through our literature.

Throughout the earth, Jehovah's people are receiving ample spiritual instruction and encouragement at congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions, as well as through the publications of Jehovah's organization. Under the guidance of his holy spirit and on the basis of his Word of truth, Jehovah provides what is needed so that all of God's people may be "fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought" and remain "stabilized in the faith." (1 Cor. 1:10; Col. 2:6, 7) Surely we are grateful for Jehovah's spiritual provisions in these last days. Thus, "the faithful and discreet slave" does not endorse any literature, meetings, or Web sites that are not produced or organized under its oversight.—Matt. 24:45-47.

It is commendable for individuals to want to use their thinking ability in support of the good news. However, no personal pursuit should detract from what Jesus Christ is accomplishing through his congregation on earth today. In the first century, the apostle Paul warned about getting involved in exhausting, time-consuming subjects, such as "genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith." (1 Tim. 1:3-7) All Christians should strive to "shun foolish questionings and genealogies and strife and fights over the Law, for they are unprofitable and futile."—Titus 3:9.

For those who wish to do extra Bible study and research, we recommend that they explore *Insight on the Scriptures*, *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial,"* and our other publications, such as those that discuss the prophecies found in the Bible books of Daniel, Isaiah, and Revelation. These provide abundant material for Bible study and meditation, whereby we can be "filled with the accurate knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension, in order to walk worthily of Jehovah to the end of fully pleasing him as [we] go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God." —Col. 1:9, 10.

Follow the Example Set by Jesus

¹ When we participate in the disciple-making work, we must keep in mind that our example can have a powerful effect on those who observe us. Jesus taught by word and deed. Those observing him could see his zeal, his love for people, his focused desire to sanctify his Father's name, and his determination to accomplish his Father's will.—1 Pet. 2:21.

² **While in the House-to-House Ministry:** As with Jesus, our example influences those who are working along with us. Newer and less experienced publishers who see us zealously engaging in the ministry will think about the quality of their share in the preaching work. When they observe our joy and genuine interest in others, they will be reminded of the importance of demonstrating such qualities in their ministry. When they notice our diligence in using the Scriptures, in making return visits, and in conducting Bible studies, they will be motivated to do the same.

³ **When Conducting Bible Studies:** Our Bible students will especially observe our conduct. For example, though we may explain to them the importance of preparing for the study, looking up the scriptures, and underlining key points, they will notice whether we are prepared. (Rom. 2:21) If we are punctual for our appointment to study with them, they will be less inclined to let other activities interfere with their Bible study. They will also no doubt take note of our self-sacrificing disposition for the ministry and our resolute faith. It is not surprising that students of those who closely follow the example of Jesus often become zealous, productive evangelizers.

⁴ **When Attending Congregation Meetings:** All those forming part of the Christian congregation have a part in teaching by example at congregation meetings. Interested ones who begin attending meetings benefit from the good example they observe in the congregation. They will notice the warm brotherhood, Christian unity, and modest dress and grooming. (Ps. 133:1) Our example of loyal attendance at congregation meetings and our public declaration of our faith while there will also be noticed. A visitor at one of our meetings observed how quickly a small girl was able to find a cited verse in her own Bible and how attentively she followed the reading. Her example moved him to request a Bible study.

⁵ The Scriptures encourage us to imitate the positive example of one another. (Phil. 3:17; Heb. 13:7) Therefore, we should remember that if we closely follow the example set by Jesus, it will be observed by others and can influence them in a positive way. Realizing this, may we take to heart the words found at 1 Timothy 4:16: "Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching."

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1. What example did Jesus set?
2. In what ways can our example affect those working with us in the ministry?
3. How may our example instruct Bible students, and what may they learn?
4. When we attend congregation meetings, what is taught by our example?
5. Why should we never underestimate the value of our example?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Sept. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"I would like to have your opinion on what this says. [Read Deuteronomy 32:4.] Have you ever wondered why there is so much suffering and wickedness in the world if God is all-powerful and just? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains why God has allowed wickedness to continue until our day."

Awake!® Sept.

"Most of us desire good health and a long life. Do you think that keeping a positive outlook can improve our health? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 17:22.] This article discusses why an optimistic attitude is worth cultivating." Feature the article on page 26.

THE WATCHTOWER® Oct. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Have you ever said to yourself, 'I wish I had done things differently!'? [Allow for response.] Notice what this says about why we all sometimes make choices that we later regret. [Read Jeremiah 10:23.] This magazine explains how the practical advice found in the Bible helps us to make good choices."

Awake!® Oct.

"Do you think that it is more dangerous for children today than in the past? [Allow for response.] Many feel that we are living during the time described here. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This magazine gives some practical suggestions on how parents can protect their children from sexual predators."

OUR KINGDOM MI [redacted]

October 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/07 Vol. 50, No. 10

Special Issue of *Awake!* to Be Offered During November!

[1] Many people have sincere questions about the value of the Bible. If men wrote it, how can it be called God's Word? What reasons are there for trusting it to direct my steps? If I read and study the Bible, how will my time and effort be rewarded? Which Bible translation should I use? These are some of the questions that are answered in the November special issue of *Awake!* entitled "Can You Trust the Bible?"

[2] We will want to give this special issue of *Awake!* wide distribution in our territory. If possible, share in the house-to-house ministry with the congregation each Saturday during the month of November. Show this issue of *Awake!* to your relatives, neighbors, workmates, teachers, schoolmates, and return visits. Carry copies with you when shopping and traveling. The elders have requested extra copies so that the congregation will have a sufficient supply.

[3] **Start a Bible Study:** If you place the magazine, you can lay the groundwork for a Bible study before concluding your conversation. For example, you might say, "Next time, I would like to show you the Bible's answer to this question, 'What is God's purpose for the earth?'" Then return with the *Bible Teach* book and show the householder pages 4-5, or consider paragraphs 1-3 of chapter 3. Another option is to say, "Next time, I would like to discuss a Bible prophecy that is being fulfilled right now." When you return, show the householder chapter 9 of the book and consider together paragraphs 1-3. Or you might simply tell the householder: "Many find it difficult to understand what they read in the Bible. Next time, I would like to show you how you can understand your Bible better." On the return visit, introduce the *Bible Teach* book, and demonstrate a study.

[4] Only the Bible contains "holy writings," which are able to make us "wise for salvation." (2 Tim. 3:15) Therefore, all of us will want to have a zealous share in distributing this special issue of *Awake!* to help people develop trust in the Bible!

Offer Hope to the Poor

[1] Jesus took a special interest in those who were impoverished. There were occasions when he miraculously provided material assistance and healed the sick, but his focus was on declaring "good news" to the poor. (Matt. 11:5) The Christian ministry today continues to benefit the poor as well as others. —Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

[2] **Real Hope:** Christendom's ministers often promise the poor that they will prosper if they give generously to the church. However, the Bible teaches that only God's Kingdom will end poverty and solve all of mankind's problems. (Ps. 9:18; 145:16; Isa. 65:21-23) By showing the poor what the Bible really teaches, we impart hope and help them to satisfy their spiritual need.—Matt. 5:3.

[3] The Pharisees of Jesus' day looked down on the poor, contemptuously calling them *'am-ha·'a'rets,* or "people of the land." However, Jesus viewed "their blood," or their life, as "precious." (Ps. 72:13, 14) We can imitate Jesus and 'show favor' to such poor ones by being kind and sympathetic. (Prov. 14:31) Never would we want to speak disparagingly about people living in poor neighborhoods or show a reluctance to witness to them. Many who are responding to the Kingdom message are of humble means.

[4] **Help Now:** Our teaching Bible principles to poor ones in the territory also helps them to mitigate the effects of poverty right now. For example, the Bible condemns drunkenness, gambling, laziness, the use of tobacco, and other practices that contribute to poverty. (Prov. 6:10, 11; 23:21; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:5) The Scriptures encourage honesty and working "whole-souled," qualities looked for in employees. (Col. 3:22, 23; Heb. 13:18) In fact, in one survey the majority of employers ranked honesty and integrity as qualities that impress them most in job candidates.

[5] Jehovah is not insensitive to the sufferings of the poor. Soon Jesus Christ will deliver "the poor one crying for help." (Ps. 72:12) Until then, we have the privilege of comforting others, including the poor, with the Bible's message of hope.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 8

Song 56

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October *Awake!* In each case the magazines should be offered as a set even though only one magazine is featured.

20 min: Stay Close to Jehovah's Organization. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 17 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

15 min: "Special Issue of *Awake!* to Be Offered During November!"* Briefly review the contents of the November *Awake!* Then proceed with a question-and-answer discussion of the article. When considering paragraph 3, demonstrate how to offer the November *Awake!* using the suggestion on page 8 or another presentation appropriate for your territory. Lay the groundwork for the next visit before concluding the demonstration.

Song 10

Week Starting October 15

Song 67

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: Is the Truth Bearing Fruit in Those You Teach? Talk and audience discussion based on the February 1, 2005, *Watchtower*, pages 28-30. Include comments on how the questions in the *Bible Teach* book have been designed to help us discern what is in a student's heart. Consider a few examples, such as chapter 1, paragraph 19; chapter 2, paragraph 4; chapter 3, paragraph 24; and chapter 4, paragraph 18. Encourage publishers to make good use of the various features of the book.

15 min: Do You Remember? Audience discussion based on the August 15, 2007, *Watchtower*, page 19.

Song 151

Week Starting October 22

Song 175

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Go On Walking as Children of Light. Talk and interviews. We have left the darkness of this world and have allowed ourselves to be guided by Jehovah's light. (Eph. 5:8, 9) This has made our life better, giving it purpose. (1 Tim. 4:8) This light also gives us hope. (Rom. 15:4) Interview two or three publishers who have faced and overcome major obstacles in order to gain and maintain a fine relationship with Jehovah. What challenges did they face when coming into the truth? How were they able to overcome them? In what way is their life better now? What helps them to remain steadfast in the truth? Conclude by encouraging all to continue making spiritual progress and demonstrating deep appreciation for the truth that Jehovah has revealed.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

Song 23

Week Starting October 29

Song 124

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October. Mention the literature offer for November, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Set Spiritual Goals to Glorify Your Creator. Talk and audience discussion based on the July 15, 2004, *Watchtower*, pages 21-3. Invite audience to comment on the spiritual goals they have set and what they are doing to reach them. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

20 min: "Offer Hope to the Poor."* When considering paragraph 2, include comments on the September 8, 2003, *Awake!* pages 26-7.

Song 7

Week Starting November 5

Song 156

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: How to Protect Your Children by Means of Godly Wisdom. Talk based on the January 1, 2005, *Watchtower*, pages 23-7.

20 min: "An Interchange of Encouragement for All."* Invite audience to give specific comments on how they were encouraged by a traveling overseer during his visit to the congregation. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 192

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**387**	**105.7**	**63.0**	**40.5**	**4.0**
Pios.	**99,941**	**62.8**	**34.6**	**18.7**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**31,659**	**49.7**	**29.3**	**11.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**902,825**	**10.2**	**7.7**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**1,034,812**		Baptized: **5,653**		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* with the objective of starting a Bible study. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the brochure *Keep on the Watch!* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *Draw Close to Jehovah* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **January:** *Keep on the Watch!* Congregations that do not have a supply of such brochures may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1991 with the exception of *Creation, Mankind's Search for God*, and *Young People Ask*.
- Since December has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.
- The video program *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* will be considered at a Service Meeting in January. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.
- The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2008" and should be kept for reference throughout 2008.
- Please note that the brother presenting the last part on the Service Meeting should introduce the closing song. Thereafter, he or another qualified brother assigned in advance will offer the concluding prayer.
- The special public talk for the 2008 Memorial season will be given during the week of March 31, 2008. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before March 31.
- At times, questions arise as to whether it is appropriate for the branch office or a congregation to be designated to receive donations from programs that offer to contribute to charitable organizations. The local elders can address such inquiries in accord with guidelines they have received. Publishers should obtain theocratic direction from the elders before deciding to participate in such donation programs.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 29, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 3 through October 29, 2007.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is repetition an important teaching technique? [*be* p. 206 pars. 1-2, box]
2. In what ways can we highlight the theme of a talk? [*be* p. 210, box]
3. What are the main points of a talk, and what guides our selection of them? [*be* p. 212 pars. 1-3]
4. Why should we not have too many main points in a talk? [*be* p. 213 pars. 2-4]
5. Why is it important that our introduction arouse interest, and how can this be done? [*be* p. 215 par. 1; p. 216 pars. 1-3, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How does Psalm 119:89, 90 help us to appreciate that we can depend on God's word? [*w*05 4/15 p. 15 par. 3]
7. What does the book of Ezekiel emphasize, and what will result to those who now sanctify Jehovah in their lives? [*si* p. 137 par. 33]
8. How can "the saying of Jehovah" guard our heart? (Ps. 18:30) [*w*05 9/1 p. 30 par. 2]
9. How is the Kingdom hope emphasized throughout the book of Daniel? [*si* p. 142 par. 23]
10. How does the book of Hosea strengthen our faith in Jehovah's inspired prophecies? [*si* p. 145 par. 14]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What did the measuring of the temple in Ezekiel's vision signify, and what assurance does this provide for us today? (Ezek. 40:2-5) [*w*99 3/1 p. 9 par. 6; p. 14 par. 7]
12. In the final fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision, who is "the chieftain"? (Ezek. 48:21) [*w*99 3/1 p. 16 pars. 13-15; pp. 22-3 pars. 19-20]
13. What is the meaning of Daniel 2:21? [*w*98 9/15 p. 12 par. 9]
14. What made Daniel "someone very desirable" in the eyes of Jehovah? (Dan. 9:23) [*dp* p. 185 par. 12; *w*04 8/1 p. 12 par. 17]
15. In what sense was there no "knowledge of God in the land" of Israel, and how should we personally view those words? (Hos. 4:1, 2, 6) [*w*05 11/15 p. 21 par. 21; *jd* pp. 57-8 par. 5; p. 61 par. 10]

An Interchange of Encouragement for All

1 The apostle Paul wrote to the congregation in Rome: "I am longing to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to you in order for you to be made firm; or, rather, that there may be an interchange of encouragement among you, by each one through the other's faith, both yours and mine." (Rom. 1:11, 12) Modern-day visits of traveling overseers provide similar opportunities for an interchange of encouragement.

2 **The Congregation:** The circuit overseer's visit is generally announced to the congregation about three months in advance. This allows time for us to adjust our schedule so as to benefit to the full. (Eph. 5:15, 16) If you work secularly, perhaps you will be able to request time off to support field service during the week. Some arrange to auxiliary pioneer during the month of the visit. If you have planned to be away, could you make adjustments in order to be present that week?

3 A primary purpose of the circuit overseer's visit is to give personal encouragement and training in the field ministry. Could you ask to work with him or with his wife if he is married? The circuit overseer enjoys working with various publishers, including those who may have less experience or lack a measure of skill in the ministry. All can learn from his presentation and apply any suggestions that he may kindly offer. (1 Cor. 4:16, 17) Inviting him to share a meal with you will open further opportunity for encouraging fellowship. (Heb. 13:2) Since his talks are tailored to the needs of the congregation, listen carefully.

4 **The Circuit Overseer:** The apostle Paul was no different from the brothers he served in that he experienced challenges and anxieties and he appreciated encouragement. (2 Cor. 11:26-28) When the congregation in Rome learned that Paul, now a prisoner, was finally coming there, some traveled to the Marketplace of Appius to meet him—a distance of 46 miles! "Upon catching sight of them, Paul thanked God and took courage." (Acts 28:15) You can likewise encourage your circuit overseer. Show him "double honor" by your enthusiastic support of his visit. (1 Tim. 5:17) Express and demonstrate your sincere appreciation for his efforts in your behalf. He and his wife will rejoice as they observe your faith, love, and endurance. —2 Thess. 1:3, 4.

5 In these "critical times hard to deal with," who among us does not need encouragement? (2 Tim. 3:1) Decide now to share fully in the special week of activity with the circuit overseer. All of us—traveling overseers and publishers alike—can participate in a joyful interchange of encouragement. In this way we will also "keep comforting one another and building one another up."—1 Thess. 5:11.

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1. What special opportunities do the visits of traveling overseers provide?
2. Why is the circuit overseer's visit announced in advance?
3. What may we personally do during the visit to obtain encouragement?
4. How may we encourage our circuit overseer?
5. Why do all of us need encouragement today?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Oct. 15

"Many people feel that the future is so uncertain that we are better off living just for today. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Jesus made this interesting comment. [Read Matthew 6:34.] This magazine explains how we can plan for the future but at the same time avoid being unduly anxious about it."

Awake!® Oct.

"All of us have lost loved ones in death. Do you think they are watching us from heaven? [Allow for response.] Notice what Jesus said when Lazarus died. [Read John 11:11.] This article explains whether the dead are alive somewhere or are asleep awaiting a resurrection." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 1

"Do you think the world would be a better place if people demonstrated more humility? [Allow for response.] Note what Jesus said about this quality. [Read Matthew 23:12.] This article discusses the value of cultivating humility, even in this competitive world."

Awake!® Nov.

"In the past, people often looked to the Bible for guidance. But now many say they have doubts. How do you feel? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This special issue of *Awake!* gives compelling evidence that the Bible is inspired of God."

OUR KINGDOM M [redacted]

November 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 11/07 Vol. 50, No. 11

Walk as Wise Persons

[1] When Jesus asked four fishermen to be his followers, they did not put their decision off but "at once . . . they followed him." (Matt. 4:18-22) When Saul of Tarsus was converted and then regained his sight, he likewise did not procrastinate but "immediately in the synagogues he began to preach Jesus." (Acts 9:20) Time constantly moves forward; once it passes, it is gone forever. That is why it is important for us to 'walk as wise persons' with regard to how we use our time.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

[2] **Unforeseen Occurrence:** Opportunities we have today to serve Jehovah may be gone tomorrow. (Jas. 4:14) No one is exempt from "unforeseen occurrence." (Eccl. 9:11) Additionally, we are all getting older, and the "calamitous days" that accompany advancing age and that limit what we are able to do in Jehovah's service are inescapable in this present system of things. (Eccl. 12:1) Therefore, it is not wise to put off making a dedication to God or to wait for ideal circumstances before expanding our ministry to the extent presently possible. (Luke 9:59-62) Abraham found peace and serenity in his latter years, dying "old and satisfied" because he had used his life wisely, entirely devoted to Jehovah.—Gen. 25:8.

[3] **Time Is Reduced:** We also want to spend our time wisely because "the time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29-31) Very soon now this old system of things will end. Opportunities to participate in the great ingathering of sheeplike ones during the "harvest of the earth" will end. (Rev. 14:15) We must be careful not to allow life's anxieties and distractions to rob us of time that would be better spent in the ministry. (Luke 21:34, 35) How satisfying it will be to look back knowing that we had a full share in the harvest!

[4] We must be watchful constantly so as not to miss out on joyous privileges of service that might come our way. Let us be determined to do all that we can to serve Jehovah "as long as it may be called 'Today.'" (Heb. 3:13) By doing so, we will show ourselves to be truly wise, because "he that does the will of God remains forever."—1 John 2:17.

We Share Our Kingdom Hope

[1] During these critical last days, many in the world are without hope. (Eph. 2:12) Others have unwisely put their confidence in material riches, human rulers, modern science, and so forth. How happy we are to have a real hope for the future, a hope that is "an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm"! —Heb. 6:19.

[2] Under God's Kingdom rule, the earth will be transformed into a paradise. Dead loved ones will be resurrected. (Acts 24:15) Poverty, injustice, sickness, old age, and death will be no more. (Ps. 9:18; Matt. 12:20, 21; Rev. 21:3, 4) These are some of Jehovah's promises soon to be fulfilled. Which aspect of our hope do you especially look forward to?

[3] **Declare Good News:** We must not keep the Kingdom hope to ourselves. Love for God and neighbor moves us to imitate Jesus and "to declare good news to the poor, . . . to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release." (Luke 4:18) The apostle Paul shared the good news in the marketplace and wherever people were found. He occupied himself intensely with the ministry. (Acts 18:5) Following his example of sharing zealously in the ministry will prevent "the anxieties of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches" from dimming our Christian hope. —Mark 4:19.

[4] Our Kingdom hope does not fade when we meet people who show indifference, who lightly esteem the Kingdom message, or who outwardly oppose us. We "hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering." (Heb. 10:23) We are not "ashamed of the good news." (Rom. 1:16) It may be that our evident conviction and perseverance will eventually move some to listen.

[5] Though we properly call attention to deteriorating world conditions that fulfill Bible prophecy, we are not preachers of doom. Rather, our ministry is focused on our Kingdom hope —the good news of God's Kingdom. May we preach this good news with conviction and zeal "so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end." —Heb. 6:11.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 12

Song 59

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!* In each case, the magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one magazine is featured.

15 min: "The Silver Is Mine, and the Gold Is Mine." Talk by an elder based on the November 1, 2007, *Watchtower*, pages 17-21.

20 min: "Walk as Wise Persons."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 192

Week Starting November 19

Song 109

10 min: Local announcements. Mention the literature offer for December, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Do Not Hold Back!"* When considering paragraph 5, include comments from those who have studied with individuals who have come into the truth. How is conducting a progressive Bible study rewarding and enjoyable? One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 96

Week Starting November 26

Song 172

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!*

15 min: Can You Widen Out in Love? A talk by an elder based on the January 1, 2007, *Watchtower*, pages 9-11.

20 min: Young People—How Can You Praise Jehovah? Discussion of the June 15, 2005, *Watchtower*, pages 26-8, paragraphs 15-19, using the study questions that are provided. When considering paragraph 18, invite young people in the audience to relate how they have witnessed to students or teachers in school.

Song 5

Week Starting December 3

Song 77

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Review Question Box.

15 min: A School Whose Graduates Benefit People Worldwide. Talk based on the November 15, 2006, *Watchtower*, pages 10-13. Include a brief interview of any elders or ministerial servants in the congregation who attended the Ministerial Training School. How did the school help them to progress as evangelizers, shepherds, and teachers? Encourage brothers who qualify to consider making the Ministerial Training School a goal.

15 min: "We Share Our Kingdom Hope."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on cited scriptures.

Song 173

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**350**	**103.4**	**63.2**	**40.6**	**4.3**
Pios.	**99,943**	**60.8**	**33.0**	**18.1**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**31,746**	**50.4**	**29.0**	**10.9**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**912,544**	**10.0**	**7.7**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,044,583**			Baptized:	**5,058**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the brochure *Keep on the Watch!* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. As an alternative offer, you may use *Draw Close to Jehovah* or *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **January:** *Keep on the Watch!* Congregations that do not have a supply of such brochures may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1991 with the exception of *Creation*, *Mankind's Search for God* and *Young People Ask*. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness*.
- Since December has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.
- A number of Bible-based publications are available that have been designed to give a witness to people of various cultural and religious backgrounds. The literature servant has a list of these helpful publications.
- Donations for the worldwide work that are made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office's financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.
- If not already prepared, all publishers are urged to complete a durable power of attorney (DPA) card. This DPA card protects your right to refuse blood transfusions. Elders will provide personal assistance as needed.—See the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.
- Publishers no longer need to submit a *Study Report* (S-3) for each home Bible study conducted during the month. However, they should continue to indicate the number of different Bible studies conducted in the appropriate column of the *Field Service Report* (S-4). Effective immediately, the S-3 form will be used exclusively to record congregation meeting attendance.
- If you are admitted to a hospital and want visiting local elders and, in larger cities, elders serving on a Patient Visitation Group to have access to your name, what must you do? When identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you should also explain that you are willing to have a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses visit you. A federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protects your privacy, but with your consent, the law allows for the elders to learn of your admission and provide spiritual encouragement.
- The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-4 in the form entitled *Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls* (TO-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.

QUESTION BOX

- Is it appropriate to affix our personal e-mail address to literature that we distribute?

By means of a stamp or a printed label, some publishers have affixed their personal e-mail address to the magazines or tracts that they place with others. Those who accept the literature are then able to contact the publisher to request additional information. Such efforts to help interested ones are well-intentioned. However, our official Web site is already indicated on the back of the magazines and tracts. Therefore, it is best if we do not affix a personal e-mail address to the literature.

Whether a publisher provides people in the territory with contact information on a separate piece of paper, especially when making return visits, is a personal decision. We should take the initiative to call back on those who are interested instead of just leaving it up to them to contact us for more information. Genuine personal interest can be more readily manifested when speaking with the person face to face.

Do Not Hold Back!

[1] By actively participating in proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom, we do not "hold back good" from those in our assigned territories. (Prov. 3:27) There is no better message to be shared with mankind than that of the better times to come under God's rule. Although you may generously share the Kingdom hope by witnessing informally or placing literature, why not make it your goal to conduct a Bible study, if you are not yet doing so?

[2] At times, one of the biggest obstacles to conducting a Bible study is the way we feel about the matter. Some hold back from conducting a Bible study because of feeling inadequate or because of their hectic schedule. The following suggestions may be helpful to you in not holding back from having a share in the Bible study work. —Matt. 28:19; Acts 20:20.

[3] **Lack of Confidence:** Perhaps you have limited secular education or for some other reason lack confidence in your ability to conduct a Bible study. Effective Christian ministers in the first century were "unlettered and ordinary." What enabled them to teach others the truth? "They used to be with Jesus." (Acts 4:13) They learned from the Great Teacher, Jesus, whose teachings and methods have been preserved for us in the Scriptures. Even if your secular education is limited, you are receiving spiritual education that is unsurpassed.—Isa. 50:4; 2 Cor. 3:5.

[4] Jehovah sometimes used prophets to reprove erring rulers or others in high station. Some, such as Amos, had a humble background. Amos admitted: "I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet; but I was a herdsman and a nipper of figs of sycamore trees." (Amos 7:14) Nevertheless, Amos did not hold back from delivering Jehovah's judgment message to the calf-worshipping priest Amaziah. (Amos 7:16, 17) We must always remember that we are performing God's work and he will adequately qualify us for the work at hand.—2 Tim. 3:17.

[5] **Busy Schedule:** Even if you have a busy schedule, you have likely already set aside time to share in the ministry regularly. Conducting a Bible study can be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the ministry. It is a privilege to see Jehovah's Word at work in a person's life. (Heb. 4:12) Jehovah is pleased when we make personal sacrifices in order to assist someone to "come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Even the angels experience joy when someone repents of his former course and makes spiritual progress.—Luke 15:10.

[6] God's "will is that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) What a privileged role we have to work in harmony with God's will, not holding back from conducting Bible studies!

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1. In what way do we "not hold back good"?
2. What may hold us back from starting a Bible study?
3. Why are we qualified to teach the Bible?
4. What can we learn from the example of Amos?
5. Why should we endeavor to start a Bible study even if we have a busy schedule?
6. What privilege do we have in carrying out God's will?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 15

"All of us want to have a happy, meaningful life. Do you agree with what Jesus said here about the key to happiness? [Read Matthew 5:3. Then allow for response.] This magazine explains how the satisfying of our inborn, fundamental need to worship God gives meaning to our life."

Awake!® Nov.

"In our age of science and skepticism, many people think that the Bible is out-of-date. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] Did you know that every statement in the Bible that touches on science is accurate? [Read Job 26:7.] This special issue of *Awake!* gives compelling reasons why the Bible can be trusted."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 1

"How would you answer this question? [Read question on cover. Then allow for response.] It is God's purpose to unify the human race. [Read Psalm 46:8, 9.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about how unity will be achieved."

Awake!® Dec.

"Some feel that death is a passage to an afterlife; others believe that it is the end. Do you personally think that death is something to fear? [Allow for response.] Notice how Job felt about the prospect of his death. [Read Job 14:14, 15.] This magazine gives the Bible's clear explanation on what happens to us when we die."

OUR KINGDOM M[redacted]

December 2007 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/07 Vol. 50, No. 12

We Must Maintain Our Zeal for the Ministry

[1] Each year since 1992, Jehovah's Witnesses have zealously devoted more than one billion hours to the worldwide Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. How happy we are to have had a small share in such a marvelous accomplishment!—Matt. 28:19, 20.

[2] Of course, all thanks and praise belong to Jehovah, who has sustained us in our ministry during these "critical times." (2 Tim. 3:1) What is required on our part if we are to continue having a zealous share in this important work?

[3] **Basis for Zeal:** Deep love for God and neighbor, as well as a heartfelt desire to live up to our dedication, motivates us in our Kingdom service. (Matt. 22:37-39; 1 John 5:3) Love moves us to make sacrifices so that we can have a full share in the preaching work.—Luke 9:23.

[4] **Work to Maintain Zeal:** Our adversary the Devil makes every effort to dampen our zeal for the ministry. The apathy of those in our territory, the distractions of this world, the pressures of daily living, and concern over our own diminishing health are just a few of the things that he uses in an attempt to discourage us.

[5] Therefore, we must work hard to keep our zeal alive. It is important for us to cultivate "the love [we] had at first." That involves regularly reading and meditating on God's Word, the Bible, and availing ourselves of all the spiritual provisions of "the faithful and discreet slave."—Rev. 2:4; Matt. 24:45; Ps. 119:97.

[6] As Bible prophecies clearly indicate, Jehovah's day for the destruction of ungodly men is fast approaching. (2 Pet. 2:3; 3:10) With that clearly in mind, let us work hard at maintaining our zeal for the ministry, having a full share in the worldwide Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work now under way!

Make It Your Goal to Conduct a Bible Study

[1] "Lift up your eyes and view the fields, that they are white for harvesting." (John 4:35) Those words spoken by Jesus Christ are certainly applicable to the situation Christian ministers face today.

[2] Honesthearted people desirous of being taught the ways of Jehovah are still being found. This is evident in the number of new disciples being baptized each year. If you are genuinely interested in conducting a Bible study, what might you do?

[3] **Set a Goal:** First, set a goal to start and conduct a regular Bible study. Keep your goal in mind while engaging in the field ministry. Since our Christian commission involves teaching, along with preaching, all of us should seek to have an increased share in the Bible study work.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

[4] **Other Points to Keep in Mind:** Heartfelt prayer is a must for Kingdom publishers. At times we find people who have prayed for spiritual assistance. What a blessing it is to be used by Jehovah to find and teach such ones!—Hag. 2:7; Acts 10:1, 2.

[5] A sister prayed for a Bible study and then displayed copies of the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* at her place of work. When a woman picked up one of the tracts, read it through, and began to fill out the coupon, the sister spoke to her and was able to start a Bible study.

[6] Fellow publishers who are effective in starting and conducting Bible studies can help you to reach your goal to conduct a Bible study. Prayerfully look for one, and take advantage of all the assistance available to reach this goal. Perhaps soon you will experience the joy of conducting a Bible study.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 10

Song 46

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!*

20 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2008. Talk by the school overseer. Discuss points needing emphasis locally from the October 2007 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Review the role of the auxiliary counselor. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating in Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.*

15 min: "Comfort the Brokenhearted."* Relate one or two brief local experiences.

Song 34

Week Starting December 17

Song 28

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of December 31.

15 min: "We Must Maintain Our Zeal for the Ministry."* Interview a publisher who is known for being zealous in the ministry. Questions to ask: In what ways have you had to work to maintain your zeal? What has helped you to maintain your zeal?

20 min: "Offer the Magazines That Bear Witness to the Truth."* Ask for comments on the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8. Encourage audience to read the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* Ask them to bring these with them to the meeting next week.

Song 139

Week Starting December 24

Song 212

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Mention the literature offer for January, and have one appropriate presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Prepare to Offer the Current Magazines. Audience discussion based on the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* After giving a brief overview of each issue, ask the audience which articles may appeal to people in the territory and why. Invite audience to give suggestions using some of the articles they plan to feature. What question could be asked to start a conversation? Which scripture in the article could then be read? How could the scripture be tied in to the article? Using the sample presentations from *Our Kingdom Ministry* or a presentation suggested by the audience, demonstrate how each magazine might be offered.

20 min: "Make It Your Goal to Conduct a Bible Study."* Interview one or two who recently started a Bible study. How was the study started? How is the study progressing?

Song 21

Week Starting December 31

Song 89

5 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for December.

15 min: The Motivating Power of Godly Devotion. Encouraging talk based on the March 1, 1990, *Watchtower,* pages 22-3.

25 min: "The Greatest Preaching Campaign the World Has Ever Known!"* Invite audience to comment on the positive reaction seen when showing the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* to relatives, acquaintances, return visits, and Bible students.

Song 202

Week Starting January 7

Song 159

Note: Information regarding the district convention should not be considered before the week of January 7. Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 7 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. The Recommended Lodging List should be posted on the information board at the conclusion of the Service Meeting. If the Service Meeting is canceled because of a circuit assembly, book study overseers should be given a copy of the Recommended Lodging List and should announce the dates and location of the convention at the book study that week. Those in the group may write down the hotel phone numbers for making their reservations, but they should not receive a copy of the list.

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

25 min: "2008 District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Before considering the insert, read the December 15, 2007, convention assignment letter. When considering paragraph 7 of the insert, read each point under "Rooming Guidelines" and "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation" in the box on page 4, unless the congregation is local and thus does not need to use hotels. Thank all for making their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 99

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**276**	**104.6**	**70.0**	**41.9**	**4.5**
Pios.	**101,720**	**56.4**	**31.8**	**17.4**	**1.9**
Aux.Pios.	**27,186**	**49.5**	**31.8**	**11.9**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**954,823**	**9.5**	**7.8**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,084,005**			Baptized:	**2,549**

We are pleased to report a new peak in the total number of publishers! The total of 1,084,005 publishers reporting is an increase of 24,680 over the previous peak of 1,059,325 in August of 2006. Also, for the 2007 service year, 37,243 were baptized, which is the highest number of baptisms since 1998.

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2008 District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] The apostle Paul urged Hebrew Christians to gather together and to encourage one another "all the more so" as they beheld the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Evidence is mounting that "the day" Paul spoke of is very near at hand! Therefore, we look forward to opportunities to assemble with our brothers and sisters for spiritual instruction that can guide us through these increasingly perilous "last days." (2 Tim. 3:1) Such an opportunity will be provided at the upcoming 2008 district conventions.

[2] **Attend All Three Days:** We encourage you to be in attendance for all three days. By "not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together," we will not miss out on vital spiritual food. (Heb. 10:25) Begin making preparations as soon as possible. You will want to inform your employer early so that he can make any necessary arrangements. If your children will be in school during the time of your convention, inform their teachers of your plans. Let them know that the convention is a regular part of your worship. You can be sure of Jehovah's blessing on your efforts to put Kingdom interests first.—Matt. 6:33.

Program Times:

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Friday and Saturday
9:20 a.m. - 4:55 p.m.
Sunday
9:20 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[3] **Help Others Attend:** Paul also appealed to his brothers to "consider one another." (Heb. 10:24) Do brothers and sisters in your Congregation Book Study need assistance to attend the convention? Can you help your Bible students to enjoy the convention with you, even if they can be present for only one day? When you inform unbelieving family members of your convention plans, invite them to come with you. Your loving efforts may bring unexpected blessings.

[4] **Obtaining Information:** The branch office receives hundreds of telephone calls each year asking when and where the conventions will be held. Nearly all of these calls are from brothers and sisters who have already received this information. Before calling the branch office, we suggest that you first consult the March 1, 2008, issue of *The Watchtower*.

[5] If you will be attending a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, you may obtain rooming information by writing to the convention headquarters address located on the back of the current *Special Needs Room Request* form. These forms will soon be sent to congregation secretaries. To receive a reply, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your letter.

[6] **Special Needs:** If a publisher re-

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1. (a) Why does Paul's counsel to the Hebrew Christians apply with special urgency today? (Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.) (b) What upcoming opportunity will we have to apply Paul's counsel?
2. (a) Why is it vital to attend all three days of the convention? (b) How should we begin making preparations to attend?
3. In what ways may we show consideration for others?
4. How may we obtain information regarding the dates and locations of district conventions?
5. What should we do if we need rooming information concerning a convention other than the one to which our congregation is assigned?
6. What are some reminders regarding the *Special Needs Room Request* form?

quests help in obtaining accommodations, the Congregation Service Committee should decide if the publisher qualifies to submit a *Special Needs Room Request* form. Before the congregation secretary sends the form to the convention Rooming Department, the guidelines found on the form and in the December 14, 2007, letter addressed to all bodies of elders should be consulted.

7 **Reserving a Room:** A Recommended Lodging List of available hotels will be posted on the information board at the conclusion of your Service Meeting for the week starting January 7. *Before* making a hotel reservation, review the "Rooming Guidelines" and the "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." Rather than accepting a higher rate at a hotel on the list or calling a hotel that is not on the list, please wait for the congregation to receive a revised list for your convention.

8 **Fine Works:** Obedience to Jehovah's command to gather together for worship enables us to 'benefit ourselves.' More important, it provides opportunities to glorify Jehovah's name. (Isa. 48:17) Our "fine works are publicly manifest" to many persons at district conventions, and some have been moved to express their feelings. (1 Tim. 5:25) In one city where our conventions have been held for many years, a hotel manager acknowledged: "A lot of talk goes on in the city about Jehovah's Witnesses and what your conventions mean to us. We know how your people clean the civic center, and

Rooming Guidelines:

- Do not call for hotel reservations prior to your Service Meeting the week of January 7, 2008.
- If at all possible, make your hotel reservations during the month of January. Do not make your hotel reservation online, since we are not using that method.
- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Do not accept a higher rate than what is shown on the list.
- Each room reserved should be in the name of the person who will actually occupy it.
- To comply with fire regulations, do not exceed the number of adults allowed in the hotel room, as shown on the list.
- Keep your first reservation.—Matt. 5:37.
- Do not call hotels that are not on the list to ask if they have a rate for our convention.
- If no rooms are available after you have called ALL the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a particular hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should communicate with the convention Rooming Department using the contact information at the top of the list.
- If you must cancel a reservation, do so as early as possible. Be sure to receive a cancellation number.

Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation:

1. Call hotels during regular business hours using the phone numbers on the list to get the discounted rate.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Specify the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. If no rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
5. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
6. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order within ten days. Never send cash. If a deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front.

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7. How may we cooperate with the arrangements that have been made for rooming? (See the box "Rooming Guidelines.")

8. (a) In what ways may we glorify Jehovah as we attend our convention? (b) Because of the fine conduct of our brothers, what comments have been made by hotel personnel?

we see you cleaning up the parking lots. It is a pleasure having your people with us during our summer season. We hope we can continue our relationship in the years to come." After relating the difficulties encountered with other groups and entertainers, a hotel manager commented on the cooperative spirit and patience shown by our brothers during their hotel stay. He said, "We wish all our guests were like Jehovah's Witnesses!" The conduct of our brothers that led to these and many similar comments must bring joy to the heart of our God, Jehovah!

[9] Jesus said that our very lives depend on listening to "every utterance coming forth through Jehovah's mouth." (Matt. 4:4) At our annual conventions, Jehovah provides spiritual "food at the proper time," prepared by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45) Much work has gone into preparing and serving this spiritual banquet. May we demonstrate our gratitude for Jehovah's loving care by being present and paying close attention to each part on the program.

9. How does Matthew 4:4 highlight the importance of paying close attention to each part on the program?

The Greatest Preaching Campaign the World Has Ever Known!

For over 100 years, Jehovah's Witnesses have been organized to share the good news. (1 Cor. 9:23) In what has become the greatest preaching campaign the world has ever known, we speak this message in hundreds of languages. We deliver it in more than 230 lands. (Matt. 24:14) But why is this work necessary? And how is it being accomplished on a global scale?

The video *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* answers those questions by providing a close-up look at the many facets of our international activities. As you watch it, consider these questions: **(1)** How is our activity organized and directed? **(2)** How do the Writing, Translation Services, Art, and Audio/Video Services Departments contribute to communicating the good news? **(3)** What is the purpose of our extensive printing and shipping operations? (John 17:3) **(4)** How many pieces of literature are printed in one year? **(5)** What have our Bible-based publications accomplished? (Heb. 4:12) **(6)** What is being done to provide spiritual assistance for those who are visually or hearing impaired? **(7)** How is our work financed? **(8)** How do we benefit from the work of Hospital Information Services, the Service Department, and the Convention Department? **(9)** As one of Jehovah's Witnesses, how has this video enhanced your appreciation for **(a)** the effort that Jehovah's organization is making to preach the good news? **(b)** the more than 100 Bethel families around the world? **(c)** the educational training provided for overseers and missionaries? **(d)** the importance of starting each day considering a Bible text and preparing each week for congregation meetings? **(e)** the benefits of attending our Christian gatherings? **(f)** what Paradise on earth will mean? (Isa. 11:9) **(g)** sharing personally in the ongoing harvest work?—John 4:35.

What positive reaction have you seen when showing this video to your relatives, acquaintances, return visits, and Bible students? Why not share it and the good news with someone else very soon? —Matt. 28:19, 20.

Offer the Magazines That Bear Witness to the Truth

[1] *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom* and its companion magazine, *Awake!*, remain at the forefront of the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) We take delight in regularly presenting these two timely journals as we participate in various aspects of Kingdom service.

[2] Over the years we have seen changes in the size and content of the magazines as well as in the methods we use to distribute them. These changes have been made with the objective of making the magazines more appealing and effective, so that the Kingdom message reaches the heart of 'all sorts of men that they might be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.' —1 Tim. 2:4.

[3] Since January 2006, we have become adept at using various presentations for the one monthly issue of *Awake!* Now we will take a similar approach to offering just one of the two monthly issues of *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom* in our public ministry. Sample presentations for each magazine appear on the back page of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* These usually highlight one of the opening articles in the magazine, but at times certain other articles with wide appeal are featured. The published suggestions can be used most effectively when we are well acquainted with the featured article and use our own words to adapt the presentation to our territory.

[4] Although *Our Kingdom Ministry* includes two suggestions for each magazine, feel free to use an entirely different presentation. One reason for doing so could be that one of the other articles would have wider appeal in your territory. Or it may be that you feel that you could make a more effective presentation by using an article that holds greater interest for you.

[5] **How to Prepare Your Presentation:** First of all, you must be thoroughly familiar with the article you choose to feature. You may not always be able to become familiar with every article in the magazine before you begin using it in the field ministry. However, you must reflect enthusiasm and sincerity with regard to the articles you choose to feature. You can do that only when you are well acquainted with the information you present.

[6] Next, be flexible, or versatile, in preparing your opening words. A pointed interest-arousing question related to the article may be used to begin a conversation. Always rely on the power of God's Word to touch the heart. (Heb. 4:12) Select an appropriate scripture that relates to the subject you introduce, preferably a text that is cited or quoted in the article that you are featuring. Consider how to tie in the scripture with the article.

[7] **At Every Opportunity:** For a presentation to be truly effective, it must be put to use. Share with the congregation in magazine witnessing on Saturday. Offer the magazines to people who have previously accepted other literature. Always offer the magazines to your Bible students and to other people who may be present when you make a return visit. You may be able to place magazines with people you talk with when you go shopping, while traveling, or while waiting at a doctor's office. Refine your presentations as you use them throughout the month.

[8] The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines are unique. They exalt Jehovah as the Sovereign of the universe. (Acts 4:24) They comfort people with the good news of God's Kingdom and encourage faith in Jesus Christ. (Matt. 24:14; Acts 10:43) In addition, they keep watch on world events as these fulfill Bible prophecy. (Matt. 25: 13) Help individuals in your territory to benefit from these journals by preparing to offer them at every appropriate opportunity!

[9] When you succeed in placing a magazine, or even if you just have friendly spiritual conversation with someone, be prepared with a question or a thought-provoking statement that may open the way for a return visit and another spiritual conversation. If we are zealous in sowing seeds of truth, we can be sure that Jehovah will open the hearts of those who sincerely desire to know and serve Him.—1 Cor. 3:6.

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1. What is the role of the *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*?
2. What changes have been seen in the *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, and why?
3. How will the magazines be used in the ministry?
4. Why may it be beneficial to use other presentations aside from the suggested presentations in *Our Kingdom Ministry?*
5. Before preparing a presentation for the featured magazine, what must you do?
6. How can we prepare our own presentations?
7. How may we further refine our presentations?
8. In what ways are *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* unique?
9. How can we lay the groundwork for a return visit?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *Draw Close to Jehovah* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **January:** *Keep on the Watch!* Congregations that do not have a supply of such brochures may offer any 192-page book printed on paper that discolors or any book published prior to 1991 with the exception of *Creation, Mankind's Search for God,* and *Young People Ask.* **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may use *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies.

■ Someone designated by the presiding overseer should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of September, October, and November. The same person should not be used for consecutive audits. When the audit is complete, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year **2009** will be on Thursday, April 9, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances by other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

■ As a reminder, all congregations should notify the branch office of their meeting times as they will be on January 1. If this has not been done, the congregation secretary should immediately do so by using the Web site www.jw.org or, if that is not possible, by submitting a *Congregation Meeting Information* (S-5) form.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: March 8, 2008 (Gilead graduation); May 9-10, 2008 (spring cleaning); September 13, 2008 (Gilead graduation); and October 4, 2008 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 31, 2007. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 5 through December 31, 2007.

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What points should we keep in mind to ensure an effective conclusion? [*be* p. 220 par. 4–p. 221 par. 3]
2. How can we make sure that what we say in the field ministry is accurate? [*be* p. 223 pars. 2-4]
3. In our presentations at congregation meetings, how can we reflect high regard for the congregation's role as "a pillar and support of the truth"? (1 Tim. 3:15) [*be* p. 224 pars. 1-4]
4. Why is checking the reliability of our information important, and how can we do this? [*be* p. 225 pars. 1-2]
5. When teaching, how might we make our material easier for others to understand? [*be* p. 226 par. 3–p. 227 par. 1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What proves the account of Jonah to be authentic? [*si* p. 153 par. 3]
7. What prophecy of Micah ties in with God's Kingdom rule by means of Christ Jesus? [*si* p. 158 par. 18]
8. What proves the book of Habakkuk to be inspired of God? [*si* p. 161 par. 4]
9. Why can it be said that by 520 B.C.E. the Jews had still not accomplished the purpose of their return from exile? (Hag. 1:4) [*si* p. 166 par. 3]
10. To what glorious day does Zechariah repeatedly refer? [*si* p. 172 par. 26]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How was Joel's prophecy about an invasion of insects fulfilled in the first century, and how is it being fulfilled today? (Joel 2:1-10, 28) [*w07* 10/1 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Books of Joel and Amos"]
12. What did "a basket of summer fruit" signify? (Amos 8:1, 2) [*w07* 10/1 "Jehovah's Word Is Alive—Highlights From the Books of Joel and Amos"]
13. In what sense did Jehovah 'feel regret over the calamity he had spoken concerning the Ninevites,' and how should this affect us? (Jonah 3:10) [*w03* 7/15 pp. 17-18]
14. What does it mean to walk in Jehovah's name? (Mic. 4:5) [*w03* 8/15 p. 17 par. 19]
15. When and how did Jehovah come to his "temple" for judgment in modern times? (Mal. 3:1-3) [*re* p. 32 box; *jd* p. 179 par. 3–p. 181 par. 6]

Comfort the Brokenhearted

1 At no other time in mankind's history has there been such a need to provide comfort. Following the lead of our King, Christ Jesus, we also work to "bind up the brokenhearted."—Isa. 61:1.

2 **Approach:** To comfort people, our ministry should be characterized by a well-balanced, positive presentation. When we keep discussions about the world's bad deeds and false doctrines to a minimum, Scriptural truth and the bright hope of God's comforting promises are foremost in the conversation. This does not mean that Armageddon should not be discussed. Our commission is to proclaim both "the year of goodwill on the part of Jehovah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God," and to "warn the wicked one from his wicked way." However, the warning of Armageddon and a description of its destructive results is not meant to overshadow the theme of the good news of God's Kingdom.—Isa. 61:2; Ezek. 3:18; Matt. 24:14.

3 **From Door-to-Door:** It is not uncommon to find people who are downhearted because of sickness, the death of a loved one, injustices, or economic problems. As imitators of Christ, we are "moved with pity" and show a sympathetic attitude toward those whom we meet in the ministry. (Luke 7:13; Rom. 12:15) Although we share a scripture or two related to the problem, we must prove to be "swift about hearing," thus allowing the person to express his feelings. (Jas. 1:19) After first listening, we are in a better position to provide comfort.

4 At an appropriate time in the conversation, we might say, "I would like to share with you some encouraging words from the Bible." Good judgment should be used so as not to endeavor to refute every wrong view that the person may express. Rather, our focus should be to provide encouragement and comfort by using the Scriptures to fortify the heart. In this regard, you may consult *Reasoning From the Scriptures* pages 117-121 under the heading "Encouragement." Or you may furnish the householder with a copy of the tract *Comfort for the Depressed* and review the encouraging material therein.

5 **Look for Opportunities to Comfort Others:** Do you know of a neighbor, workmate, schoolmate, or family member that is in need of comfort? Why not make an effort to visit such ones at their home with the goal of sharing comfort from the Scriptures? Knowing why they need comfort, you can prepare for that particular situation. In this regard some have written letters or made telephone calls. True love of neighbor will move us to show fellow feeling and to provide needed comfort from the Scriptures.—Luke 10:25-37.

6 Yes, we are commissioned to comfort those who mourn, to lift saddened hearts, and to instill hope for a bright future. This is the comfort that people around the world need. Talking joyfully about the many good things God has promised will bring comfort and hope to the honesthearted. May we always remember the need to bind up the brokenhearted.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Dec. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"During the holiday season, many try to show kindness and compassion. Do you think that the world would be a better place if people showed compassion all year round? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Peter 3:8.] This magazine explains the value of compassion and mentions some practical ways we can demonstrate it."

Awake!® Dec.

"Do you think that our dead loved ones will live again? [Allow for response.] The Bible says that there is a way out of death. [Read Psalm 68:20.] This magazine shows why we need not fear death as the permanent end of life."

THE WATCHTOWER® Jan. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Many people pray for God's Kingdom to come. For example, notice this famous prayer that Jesus taught his followers. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Have you ever wondered what the Kingdom is and when it will come? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says on the matter."

Awake!® Jan.

"Throughout history women have suffered discrimination and violence. Why do you think that is? [Allow for response.] Notice how the Bible instructs husbands to treat their wives. [Read 1 Peter 3:7.] This magazine shows from the Bible how God and Christ view women."